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ABSTRACT

Although calls for a National Library began as early as 1883, the cornerstone of the future national library was the Canadian Bibliographic Centre, established in 1950, which began work on the national bibliography and national union catalog. When the National Library of Canada was established in 1953 under the direction of W. Kaye Lamb, the National Library Act became effective and Canadian publishers were required by law to deposit two copies of each new book they published at the National Library. From 1956 to 1966, the library moved to a different building, the staff began cataloging the collections and organizing material transferred from the Library of Parliament, and the organizational structure took shape. In 1968, after another move to the National Library and Archives Building, the Office of Library Resources was created and Guy Sylvestre was appointed National Librarian. Since that time, various new divisions have been created to deal with changing needs, including the automation of library service. (CWM)

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The National Library of Canada

Twenty-five years after

A retrospective overview by Ian Wees published on the occasion of the Silver Anniversary of the National Library of Canada.

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National Library of Canada Bibliothèque nationale du Canada

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Foreword

The emphasis in this book, which was written to mark the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the National Library of Canada, is on the evolution, problems, shortcomings, and achievements of the National Library and the major changes that have taken place during its first twenty-five years. I asked Dr. Wees to write this book because he has been on the staff of the National Library since it was founded, has had wide experience in the Library, and has witnessed, and participated in, the evolution of many of its services. I trust that his book, which reflects his own assessment of the evolution of the Library, will succeed in making the young National Library better known.

Guy Sylvestre
National Librarian

Historical Highlights

1883 — statement by Sir John A. Macdonald in the House of Commons on the need for a national library

1911 — publication of an article by Lawrence Burpee, "A Plea for a National Library"

1933 — publication of the report of a commission to study Canadian libraries (the Ridington Report), in which the creation of a national library is advocated

1946 — formation of the Canadian Library Association, which mounts a strong campaign in favor of the establishment of a national library

1948 — W. Kaye Lamb appointed as Dominion Archivist and given the responsibility of preparing the way for a national library

1950 — establishment of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre, the foundation of the National Library; work begins on the national bibliography and the national union catalogue

1951 — *Report* of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters, and Sciences published; it proposes the creation of a national library

1952 — a fire at the Library of Parliament hastens the creation of the National Library

1953 — establishment of the National Library; W. Kaye Lamb becomes National Librarian; National Library Act becomes effective, and legal deposit begins

1956 — National Library moves from the Public Archives building on Sussex Drive to the Public Archives Records Centre building, Tunney's Pasture

1956 to 1966 — the staff organizes a large quantity of material that had been transferred from the Library of Parliament; the cataloguing of the Library's collections begins; various divisions are created and an organizational structure takes shape

1967 — move to and official opening of the new National Library and Archives building on Wellington Street

1968 — retirement of W. Kaye Lamb; appointment of Guy Sylvestre as National Librarian; creation of the Office of Library Resources

1969 — new National Library Act comes into force; a brief on the automation and improvement of National Library services presented by Dr. Sylvestre to the Senate Special Committee on Science Policy; publication of the *National Library News* begins

1970 — report of the Systems Development Project, dealing with automation of National Library services, presented; creation of the Research and Planning Branch, Music Division, and Library Documentation Centre

1971 — Canadian Task Group on Cataloguing Standards and MARC Task Group established; Federal Libraries Liaison Office created

1972 — Canadian Union Catalogue Task Group formed; Collections Development Branch, Public Relations Office, and Retrospective National Bibliography Division founded

1973 — Canadian Book Exchange Centre, SDI Division, Multilingual Biblioservice, Office of Library Standards, and Rare Books and Manuscripts Division created

1974 — Task Group on Library Service to the Handicapped formed

1975 — children's literature service and Division for the Visually and Physically Handicapped established; MARC Records Distribution Service started; Committee on Bibliographical Services for Canada created

1976 — creation of the Planning Office and the Council of Federal Libraries; review of role, services, and objectives of National Library begins

1978 — twenty-fifth anniversary of the National Library

Sir John A. Macdonald
Credit: Public Archives of Canada

Chapter 1

The Birth of a Library

The year 1953 was an eventful one: Joseph Stalin and Eugene O'Neill died; Dwight D. Eisenhower became President of the United States; the Korean War came to an end; the Liberal Party of Canada, under Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent, was victorious in a general election; and Winston Churchill was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

A less remarkable event took place on January 1 of the same year, when the National Library of Canada was established. Although its creation attracted relatively little attention at the time, except in the library world, it did have a long-range importance for Canadian culture and Canadian scholars; and it was an event long overdue.

The Dominion of Canada came into existence in 1867, and the National Library, in 1953. The intervening years were ones of maturation for the country, and while Canada grew as a nation and evolved toward full independence, the realization also grew that a national library was needed to support and strengthen the culture of the country.

The importance of having a national library was voiced in 1883 by Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister, who remarked that Canada should have "a national library containing every book worthy of being kept on the shelves of a library."[1]

Unfortunately, it was an idea whose time had not yet come. It took another seventy years before the National Library of Canada was founded.

Why did it take so long? Dr. F. Dolores Donnelly, in her historical study on the National Library, says that Sir John A. Macdonald's decision in 1885 to try "to cast the Library of Parliament into the mold of the Library of Congress, by creating the illusion that the former was fulfilling the role of national library as well as the legislative function — with *two* heads instead of one — may have postponed the real issue"[2] for many years.

Other reasons were the lack of a national library association in Canada to lead a campaign for the creation of a national library, economic depressions, and Canada's participation in two world wars.

Perhaps, as Dr. Donnelly also suggests, Canada simply was not ready for a national library, since for many years the country was too underdeveloped and lacked the necessary maturity and cultural substructure.

It may be, too, that the Canadian penchant for caution and foot-dragging was a contributing factor. Canada did not adopt a distinctive national flag until 1965, and the federal government and the provinces have not yet reached agreement on a

[1] Canada, *Parliament, House of Commons, Debates*, April 13, 1883, p. 631.

[2] F. Dolores Donnelly, *The National Library of Canada; a Historical Analysis of the Forces Which Contributed to Its Establishment and to the Identification of Its Role and Responsibilities* (Ottawa: Canadian Library Association, 1973), p. 24.

mutually acceptable formula for amending the Canadian constitution.

There were various voices crying in the wilderness. One was that of Lawrence Burpee, who, in 1911, published an article entitled "A Plea for a National Library," in which he proposed that the federal government create a national library, erect a suitable building for it, and remove to it the books and other materials in the Library of Parliament not needed for parliamentary use. Alas, poor Burpee, despite his efforts and those of the Ontario Library Association, did not live to see his dream fulfilled; he died in 1946, just seven years before the founding of the National Library.

Lawrence J. Burpee
Credit: Public Archives of Canada

Decades after the publication of Burpee's article, a Commission of Enquiry was formed to study Canadian library services and needs. Its report (often called the Ridington Report), published in 1933, pointed out the desirability of a national library. Briefs submitted in 1938 to the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations also stressed this need.

A turning point came in 1946, when the Canadian Library Association was finally formed. The Association gave wide publicity to the need for a national library and focused strong pressure on the federal government. A determined campaign, led by Freda Waldon, Elizabeth Morton, Elizabeth Dafoe, and others, gained momentum. A joint brief from the Canadian Library Association and a number of Canadian learned societies, submitted in 1946, urged the federal government to found a national library. The *Report* (published in 1951) of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters, and Sciences, chaired by Vincent Massey, who later became Governor-General of Canada, also recommended the creation of a national library.

A national library was needed for a number of compelling reasons. Canada enjoyed "the dubious distinction," as Burpee had put it, of being one of the few countries without a national library. It was not just a matter of pride, however. The lack of a national union catalogue, listing the holdings of the most important Canadian libraries, seriously hampered

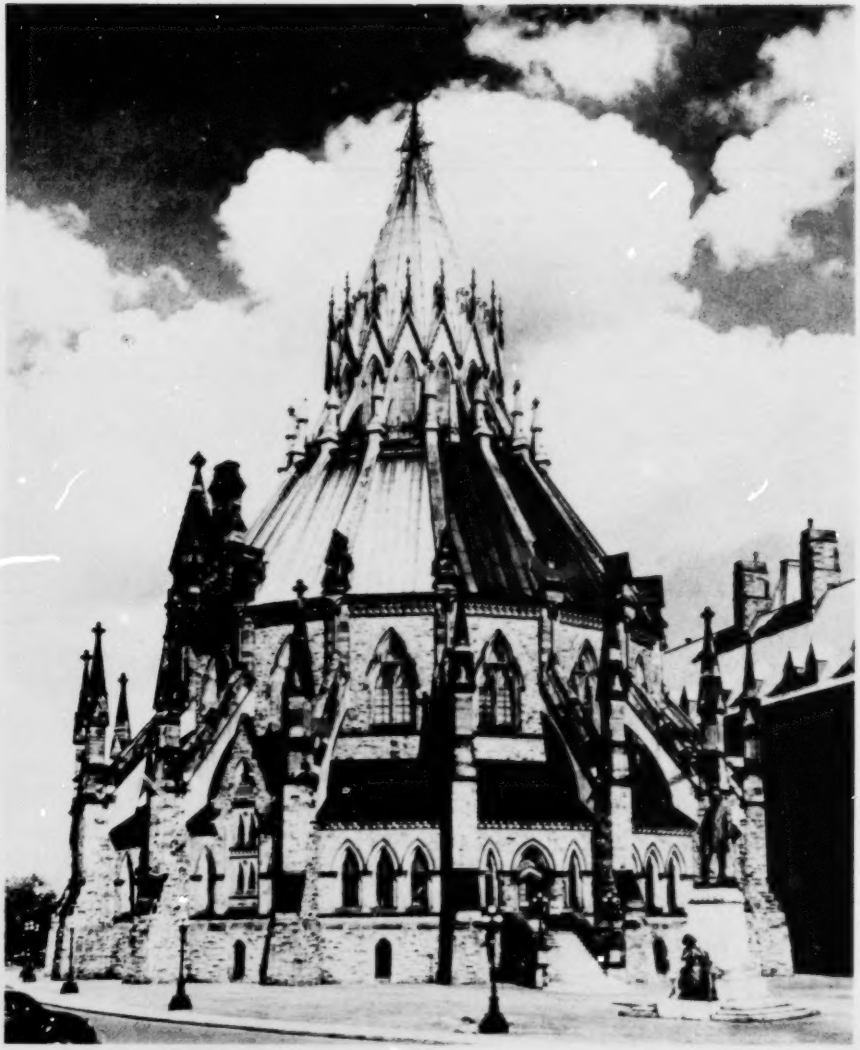
Elizabeth Dafoe

Freda F. Waldon

Elizabeth Homer Morton

research and the interlibrary lending and borrowing of materials. The country also required a current and comprehensive national bibliography. The *Canadian Catalogue of Books*, which had been published for many years by the Toronto Public Library, was a useful listing of Canadian publications, but it appeared only once a year, its coverage was incomplete, and the cataloguing was not sufficiently detailed. A national library was also needed to compile retrospective bibliographies, to meet Canada's international bibliographic responsibilities, and to be a storehouse of Canadiana.

The Library of Parliament was considered by many Canadians to be a quasi-national



The Library of Parliament
Credit: National Film Board of Canada
Photo by George Hunter

library, a combined legislative and national library, like the Library of Congress in the United States. (Even after the establishment of the National Library, confusion lingered in the public mind and many Canadians continued to think of the Library of Parliament as the National Library, just as there is a tendency on the part of the public to identify the National Library with the Public Archives because they now share the same building.) Although the Library of Parliament amassed a much larger collection of materials than it required for its role as a parliamentary library,[3] it was not performing the services of a national library.

In 1948, Dr. William Kaye Lamb, who had been Provincial Librarian and Archivist of British Columbia and Chief Librarian of the University of British Columbia, was appointed Dominion Archivist. He was also given the special task of preparing the way for the creation of a national library.

W. Kaye Lamb
Credit: Public Archives of Canada

The Canadian Bibliographic Centre (1950–1952)

The year 1950 is the next significant date in the history of the National Library: in that year the Canadian Bibliographic Centre — the cornerstone of the future National Library — was established. The Centre was housed in the Public Archives of Canada building on Sussex Drive in Ottawa. Thereafter, the Public Archives and the National Library would be linked together, like the Provincial Library and Archives of British Columbia, which Dr. Lamb had once directed.

The main goals of the Centre were to start a national union catalogue (a collective card catalogue of the holdings of the major Canadian libraries) and a national bibliography, which would list books currently published in Canada and books published abroad dealing with Canada or written by Canadians. Work began in 1950 on the formation of a union catalogue and

[3] For over seventy years, the Library of Parliament purchased and stored publications that it intended to transfer eventually to the National Library, once it came into being. After the National Library was established, many thousands of publications were given to it by the Library of Parliament.

CANADIANA

1951

JANUARY 15 – 15 JANVIER

The first issue of Canadiana

on the publication of a national bibliography. The *Canadian Catalogue of Books*, previously published by the Toronto Public Library, was continued by the Canadian Bibliographic Centre and, in 1951, was renamed *Canadiana* — a title that is simple, descriptive, distinctive, and bilingual.

In the early 1950s, before the National Library was established, two librarians from the Canadian Bibliographic Centre attended a reception at which Vincent Massey was present. One of the librarians was introduced to Mr. Massey, who, after being informed that she worked at the Canadian Bibliographic Centre, exclaimed, "Ah, yes — the germ of the National Library." Whereupon, the other librarian impulsively said to Mr. Massey, "And I'm the assistant germ."

The Canadian Bibliographic Centre was indeed a potent germ. By the time the National Library was created in 1953, *Canadiana* was well established, the holdings of some fifty Canadian libraries were recorded in the Union Catalogue, and a book location service, based on the holdings listed in the Union Catalogue, was being provided. Moreover, in 1950, the Canadian Bibliographic Centre had published a *Check List of Canadian Imprints, 1900–1925*, by Dorothea Tod and Audrey Cordingley; a catalogue entitled *Canadian Graduate Theses in the Humanities and Social Sciences, 1921–1946* had been published in 1951 by the Humanities Research Council with the assistance of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre; the Centre had microfilmed many of the publications listed in Marie Tremaine's *Bibliography of Canadian Imprints, 1751–1800*; it had assumed the cost of printing the annual cumulated volumes of the *Canadian Index to Periodicals and Documentary Films* (published by the Canadian Library Association), which the National Library would continue to do until 1968; and it had purchased some newspapers on microfilm.

The Canadian Bibliographic Centre laid the foundation for the National Library, which was about to come into being.[4] The long gestation was drawing to a close. It was a propitious period of prosperity and economic expansion in Canada, and one of growing cultural and national awareness. At last, the Government and Parliament of Canada recognized that the time had come to found the National Library.

Governor-General Vincent Massey
Credit: Public Archives of Canada

[4] Although the creation of the National Library was imminent, a fire that occurred in the Library of Parliament in 1952 hastened the establishment of the National Library, since the fire drew attention to the overcrowded conditions at the Library of Parliament and the need for a national library to which many of the publications housed in the Library of Parliament could be transferred.

The Right Honourable Louis S. St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada at the time the National Library was created.
Credit: Public Archives of Canada

Chapter 2

The Establishment of the National Library

Without doubt, the most important date in the history of the National Library is January 1, 1953, when the Library came into official existence and the National Library Act became effective. The National Library absorbed the Canadian Bibliographic Centre, a 15-member National Library Advisory Council (later renamed the National Library Advisory Board) was created, and Canadian publishers were thenceforth required by law to deposit at the National Library two copies of each book published by them. (In 1964, the National Library began receiving periodicals on legal deposit and in 1969, sound recordings; in 1978, legal deposit was extended to include educational kits.) As a result of legal deposit requirements, current Canadian publications have poured relentlessly into the Library since 1953.

The first National Librarian was Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, a distinguished historian and a man of great charm and energy. The first Assistant National Librarian was a scholarly, genial gentleman, Dr. Raymond Tanghe, who began his duties at the Library in 1953. Dr. Tanghe had been the Director of the Library of the Université de Montréal, and was the author of several books. He retired in 1964 and was succeeded by Adèle de G. Languedoc, who had joined the staff of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre in 1951. Before becoming Assistant National Librarian, Miss Languedoc established and directed the acquisition program for *Canadiana*, tracked down many inconspicuous Canadian publications, secured the cooperation of Canadian publishers and their compliance with the legal deposit regulations, and built up a useful file of biographical information on Canadian authors.

Martha Shepard was the first Director of the Reference Branch at the National Library. She had also been the first employee on the staff of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre, where she began working in May 1950, after having been a senior reference librarian at the Toronto Public Library. Miss Shepard was responsible for planning and building the Union Catalogue. As Director of the Reference (now Public Services) Branch of the National Library, she was also responsible for developing a variety of other services. She retired from the Library in 1971.

Dr. Jean Lunn, who had been Librarian of the Fraser Institute in Montreal, also began work at the Canadian Bibliographic Centre in 1950. For many years she was the editor of *Canadiana*. Dr. Lunn was also the first Director of the Cataloguing Branch, where she oversaw the development of the national bibliography and that of the general cataloguing services. From 1973 until her retirement in 1975, she headed the National Library's Office of Library Standards and was its first Director. Dr. Lunn has played an important role in the development of national and international cataloguing standards.

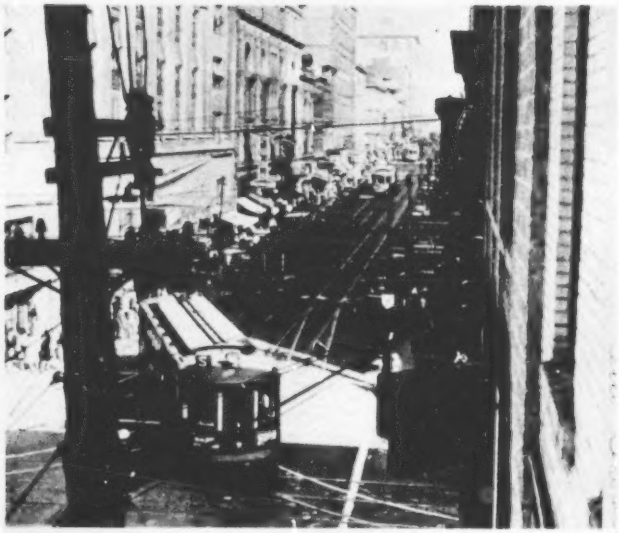
Raymond Tanghe

Adèle de G. Languedoc

Martha Shepard

Jean Lunn

The various government ministers who have been responsible for the National Library have influenced its development. These ministers are the Hon. Colin Gibson (1948–49), Gordon Bradley (1949–53), John W. Pickersgill (1953–57), Davie Fulton (1957–58), Ellen Fairclough (1958–62), Richard Bell (1962–63), John W. Pickersgill (1963–64), Maurice Lamontagne (1964–65), Judy LaMarsh (1965–68), Jean Marchand (1968), Gérard Pelletier (1968–72), Hugh Faulkner (1972–76), John Roberts (1976–). At first, the minister responsible for the National Library was the Secretary of State, and this is so today. However, for about seven years, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration was responsible for the Library.



Sparks Street, Ottawa, as it was.
Credit: National Capital Commission

Chapter 3

The Way We Were

Just as the Ottawa of 1978 is very different from the Ottawa of 1953, so too have the library world in general and the National Library in particular undergone many changes in the past twenty-five years.

At the beginning, as now, the National Library was in proximity to the Ottawa River. Streetcars rattled along Sussex Drive, past the Public Archives and neighboring buildings, such as the Ottawa General Hospital, the Royal Canadian Mint, and Notre-Dame Basilica — on the whole, a grey and rather grim collection of elderly buildings.

In 1953, Ottawa was a smaller, duller, and, outwardly at least, a less bilingual version of the city it has since become. Movie theatres were closed on Sunday; the National Gallery was housed in a part of the run-down National Museum building and, like the National Library, still lacked a

The present-day Sparks Street Mall.
Credit: National Capital Commission

building of its own; the National Arts Centre, the Sparks Street Mall, large shopping centres, and high-rise buildings did not exist; Carleton University was still a small college in the Glebe district; and the main Ottawa Public Library building on Metcalfe Street was old, dingy, and inadequate.

A remarkable period of expansion and modernization has taken place in the library world since 1953: many new library buildings have been constructed that are much more attractive, in general, than the dark, forbidding libraries of earlier times; library collections have grown greatly, and libraries have diversified their services; the introduction of automation has caused revolutionary changes; the salaries of librarians have improved enormously; library schools have expanded and multiplied; and many library technician schools, none of which existed in 1953, have been established.

To work for the National Library in 1953 was literally to start on the ground floor — that of the Public Archives building. There, a few librarians and clerks worked quietly in a crowded corner of the Public Archives museum. The newborn National Library had its beginnings in old surroundings: all around the staff were flags, busts, and paintings pertaining to Canadian history.

History was in the making as that small band of pioneers, toiling amidst relics of Canada's past, slowly built the basic bibliographic services of the National Library — all the while looking forward to the day when the Library would have an adequate building and would be able to develop a wide range of services, together

The staff of the Union Catalogue at work in the Public Archives building, Sussex Drive.

with strong collections to support these services.

Although the staff worked hard, there were some distractions and light moments. One of the staff members was a bright and energetic young man who occasionally provided a little excitement by vaulting over bookcases. Another distraction was the sight of young women sunbathing on the lawn of the nearby Laurentian Terrace, a residence for female civil servants.

For the most part, the work consisted in editing and filing Union Catalogue cards and cataloguing publications for *Canadiana*. There were, however, a few other developments.

In 1954, the Library published *Stephen Leacock: A Check-List and Index of His Writings*, compiled by Dr. G.R. Lomer (whose research and teaching materials have since been acquired by the Library) and edited by staff of the National Library.

During the years spent in the Public Archives building on Sussex Drive, the National Library began to cooperate with other national libraries and international organizations. In 1953, the Library started preparing annual lists of books published in translation in Canada; these lists are sent to UNESCO for inclusion in its publication *Index Translationum*. In addition, since 1953, the Library has contributed reports to UNESCO on bibliographic services and related activities in Canada. The Library also sends UNESCO annual statistics on book production in Canada; it began doing so in 1955. Since 1956, the Library has acted as the Canadian agent for *New Serial Titles*, by reporting to the Library of Congress Canadian holdings of serials for inclusion in *New Serial Titles*. In 1954, the Library entered into an agreement with the Commonwealth National Library of Australia that provided for the exchange each year of Canadian and Australian publications. For a number of years, the National Library published an annual catalogue, entitled *Canadiana Selections*, which listed Canadian books sent on exchange to Australia. In all, nine catalogues were published, the last being *Canadiana Selections 1963*. The exchange of publications ended at the request of the National Library of Australia, when it decided to increase its acquisition of Canadian publications so considerably that the services of a commercial supplier became necessary.

1

The Public Archives Records Centre, Tunney's Pasture.
Credit: Public Archives of Canada

Chapter 4

Roughing It in the Bush (1956–1967)

The year 1956 is another important date in the Library's early odyssey. In that year, the National Library, after having encroached more and more upon the Public Archives museum, moved to the third floor of the newly constructed Public Archives Records Centre building in Tunney's Pasture. The greenery of Tunney's Pasture replaced the greyness of the old buildings on Sussex Drive. Formerly farmland, Tunney's Pasture had been acquired by the federal government as a site for miscellaneous departmental buildings. Much of the Pasture was still undeveloped, and those walking through the fields near the Records Centre building caught occasional glimpses of denizens such as rabbits, snakes, and groundhogs. The unspoiled aspect of those fields is now just a memory.

Once again, the National Library was situated near the Ottawa River, though the Library was a little farther removed from both the river and the centre of the city. Dr. Lamb was justifiably pleased with the Records Centre. As a storage centre for records of federal government departments it was an important new service, and it also offered the National Library much-needed space. Although working conditions were far from ideal — the building was not air-conditioned, the stack areas were hot, dusty, and windowless, and reading rooms were not provided for researchers — the Library did enjoy far more space that it had in its former quarters.

Few researchers came to the Library during the Tunney's Pasture period, and the employees who labored in that west-end warehouse had a feeling of isolation. The members of the staff were assigned two large, bleak-looking office areas and a number of stack rooms. The quarters bore so little resemblance to a conventional library that one puzzled clerk, after having worked there for some time, finally asked a fellow employee where the Library was located.

It was during the Tunney's Pasture period that the staff began sorting and processing the huge collection of books, periodicals, and government publications donated to the National Library by the Library of Parliament. The sorting and processing of the materials, which descended on the Library like an avalanche after the move to Tunney's Pasture, was the biggest new task undertaken by the staff following the move. (It was also a dirty, dusty job — so much so that one librarian, while sorting publications, wore a smock, a face mask, and gloves to protect herself from the dust; as a result, she looked somewhat surgeon-like as she performed her sorting operations.) It had been decided to establish the National Library and to begin building basic services even though at first the Library had no building and no book collection; after the transfer of the Library of Parliament materials, however, the National Library found itself with a sizable collection.

The National Library cataloguing staff at work in the Public Archives Records Centre building.

Long before the move to Tunney's Pasture, the staff had been divided into two main sections: one devoted to the Union Catalogue and the location service, and the other responsible for *Canadiana*. After the move to Tunney's Pasture, new divisions were formed as the staff proceeded to organize materials acquired and as a start was made on the cataloguing of the Library's acquisitions. The Library, however, lacked sufficient staff to give full cataloguing to the many thousands of volumes it had acquired; as an expedient, the Library began a supplementary program of simplified cataloguing of some of the publications received.

There were other developments and changes during the Tunney's Pasture period. The Library began publication of a comprehensive annual catalogue of Canadian graduate theses, entitled *Canadian Theses*, the first volume of which covers the period 1960–61. Also in the early 1960s, the Library began publishing Canadian graduate theses in microform, first on microfilm, then on microfiche; copies of these theses may be borrowed or purchased from the National Library. More than 34,000 theses have been microcopied to date. At present, over thirty Canadian universities participate in this service by sending some or all of their theses to the National Library for microcopying. In the 1960s, work began on the preparation of *Canadian Theses, 1947–1960*, which was published in 1973; it is a bridge between *Canadian Graduate Theses in the Humanities and Social Sciences, 1921–1946* and *Canadian Theses*.

In the mid-1960s, the National Library assumed the responsibility of compiling annual bibliographies of selected current Canadian publications. These lists, entitled "Books about Canada," are prepared for the *Canada Year Book*. The first list covers 1965, and annual lists have been prepared since that time.

Dr. Tanghe, the Assistant National Librarian, edited a *Bibliography of Canadian Bibliographies*, which was published in 1960 by the Bibliographical Society of Canada; three supplements, prepared by Dr. Tanghe and his assistant, Madeleine Pellerin, were published between 1962 and 1966. In addition, Dr. Tanghe and Miss Pellerin began compiling a bibliography of Canadiana from 1867 to 1900.

During the eleven-year exile at Tunney's Pasture, the Library published two bibliographies compiled by Dr. Olga Bishop: *Publications of the Governments of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, 1758–1952*, published in 1957, and *Publications of the Government of the Province of Canada, 1841–1867*, published in 1963.

Canadiana

The national bibliography, *Canadiana*, is a monthly catalogue of current Canadian publications (i.e., materials published in Canada and materials published abroad that are written by Canadians or are Canadian in subject). *Canadiana* serves as a buying guide, a source of reference and cataloguing information, and a subject and chronological bibliography.

Canadiana steadily expanded during the 1950s and 1960s as new types of materials were included in it. To trade and general publications, official publications of the Government of Canada, and official publications of the provinces were added scores and sheet music, pamphlets, microforms, serials, films and filmstrips, and sound recordings. (Since 1977, however, *Canadiana* no longer includes films and filmstrips, which are now listed in *Film Canadiana*, published by the Canadian Film Institute.)

A cumulative index to *Canadiana*, covering the years 1950 to 1962, was published in 1965.

In 1966, the Library began providing a weekly proof service, consisting of advance photocopies of entries to be included in Part I of *Canadiana*. This service, which supplied users with cataloguing information several weeks in advance of the printed *Canadiana*, was established to compensate for the often-long interval between the time Canadian works were published and the appearance of cataloguing information about them in *Canadiana*.

Before Dr. Lamb retired, the National Library had decided to introduce automation. The first step was taken in 1968, when the Library began using automation for the production of the indexes to the monthly issues and the annual cumulations of *Canadiana*.

The Union Catalogue and the Location Service

During the 1950s and 1960s, the card catalogues of many Canadian libraries were microfilmed by the National Library and the microfilmed main-entry cards were filed, in the form of enlargements made from the microfilms, into the Union Catalogue. The participating libraries undertook to send the National Library cards representing newly catalogued materials, together with notices of materials no longer held.

The goal of those who produce *Canadiana* is to catalogue materials as completely and carefully as possible for the national bibliography. At the outset, those editing the Union Catalogue were almost equally perfectionist in the care with which they prepared cards for inclusion in the Union Catalogue. One of the main problems was — and still is — that the same publication may be reported by contributing libraries under several differing forms of entry. The Union Catalogue staff must try to reconcile differing forms of entry and establish uniform main-entry headings. To reduce the number of cards in the catalogue, the staff combines as many identical entries as possible on master cards; the various library locations for a given title are listed in the form of symbols on the master card. (The National Library has published seven editions of *Symbols of Canadian Libraries*, a list of symbols used to identify Canadian libraries that contribute to the Union Catalogue, as well as some non-contributing Canadian libraries.)

Because of the rapid growth of the Union Catalogue and of the location service, the Union Catalogue staff was obliged in time

to adopt faster, simpler, and less perfectionist rules for the editing and combining of cards.

Accession cards have arrived at the Library in a never-ending stream, as have publications received on legal deposit, and the volume of these cards has grown larger as the number of participating libraries increased. The growth of libraries, of universities, and of the publishing industry also contributed to the inflation of the Union Catalogue. By the end of the Tunney's Pasture period, all the main federal government libraries and Canadian university libraries had joined the Union Catalogue, in addition to many legislative, provincial, and special libraries and a number of large public libraries. In March 1956, the Catalogue contained records of the holdings of 115 Canadian libraries; by March 1967, the holdings of 242 libraries were recorded, and more than 700,000 accession cards were arriving annually.

The main purpose of the Union Catalogue is to assist researchers in locating books held by Canadian libraries and to facilitate and expedite the interlibrary borrowing and lending of publications. In the fiscal year 1954–55, the Library was asked to provide locations for 2,189 titles; in 1967–68, the number of titles requested was 57,633. The number of works lent by the National Library to other libraries also increased substantially. In the fiscal year 1958–59, there were 150 loans, and in 1967–68, interlibrary loans totalled 5,984.[5]

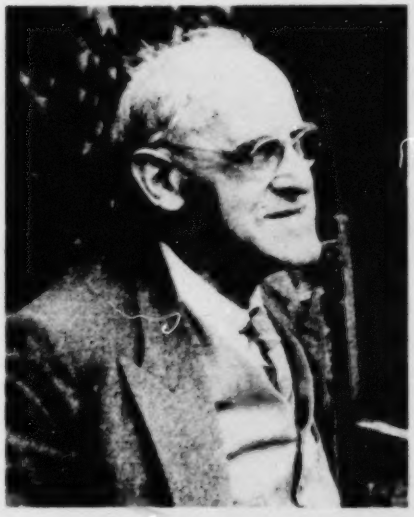
[5] Materials held by the National Library may be consulted at the Library, or borrowed on interlibrary loan through other libraries.

The National Library began using Telex in 1964. Many Canadian libraries have since joined the Telex network, and today hundreds of libraries in Canada use this medium to send and request information. Most of the requests received by the National Library are for locations and interlibrary loans.

Development of Collections

In addition to the 300,000-odd volumes transferred from the Library of Parliament and the steady inflow of legal deposit publications, various other materials were acquired by the National Library during the Tunney's Pasture period.

Percy Scholes
Photo by John Owen Ward



In 1957, the Library purchased the music library of the British scholar and writer Percy Scholes. This was the nucleus of the present Printed Collection of the Music Division.

In 1962, the Library received an important gift of rare books from Dr. Herbert Pauly. Included in the donation were the first folio edition of Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, the first edition of Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson*, the *Liber Chronicarum*, and Dickens' *Bleak House* in the original monthly parts.

Gradually, the National Library developed an excellent collection of reference works, such as dictionaries, foreign encyclopedias, bibliographies, and national bibliographies.

In 1959, an informal agreement was made between Dr. Lamb and the President of the National Research Council whereby the Library of the National Research Council assumed the responsibilities of a national science library and undertook to provide national services in the field of science and technology. In 1966, the National Research Council Library officially became the National Science Library of Canada. It was also agreed that the National Library and the National Science Library would avoid duplicating the collections of large federal government libraries such as those of Agriculture Canada and Statistics Canada.

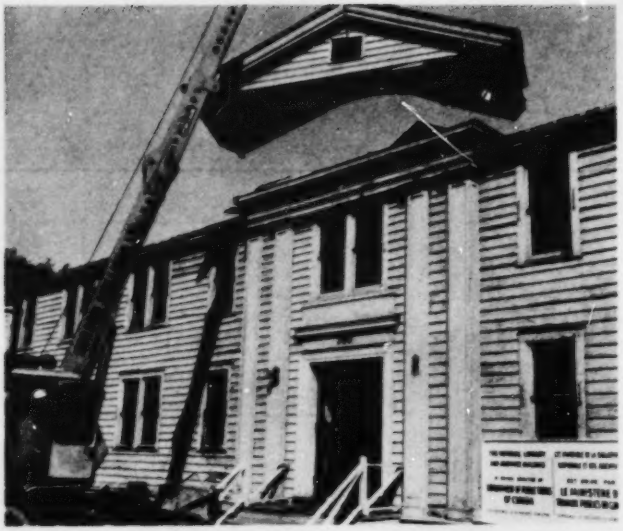
During the Lamb era, the National Library concentrated its modest book buying in the fields of Canadiana, reference materials, the humanities, and the social sciences. In 1957, the National Library

Advisory Council approved a book purchase policy, and priority was assigned to 1) Canada; 2) bibliography and general reference works; 3) backgrounds of Canadian history and affairs: France in the 17th and 18th centuries, and American history, politics, and literature; 4) a basic collection in English and French literature; 5) Commonwealth literatures; 6) selected titles from current publications in Great Britain, the United States, and France, especially works relating to the humanities and social sciences; and 7) long sets and sources (either original editions or microfilm copies).

Staff

As the quarters in the Records Centre building became more crowded and inadequate, the Library was obliged to find additional space in other buildings. It was difficult to attract trained librarians because of the unappetizing conditions at Tunney's Pasture and, also, because salaries paid to federal government librarians were not sufficiently high at that time.

In the mid-1960s, the Treasury Board approved a training plan that enabled the National Library to hire university graduates and to subsidize them while they attended library schools. This training plan, which lasted several years, and a vigorous recruitment campaign, provided the National Library with dozens of new librarians during the last years of the Lamb administration. The "trainee" program, as it was called, eventually came to an end. The expansion of Canadian library schools in the 1960s led to an increase in the number of trained librarians, and recruitment difficulties decreased as a result of the move to the new National Library building and of the higher salaries paid to federal government librarians.



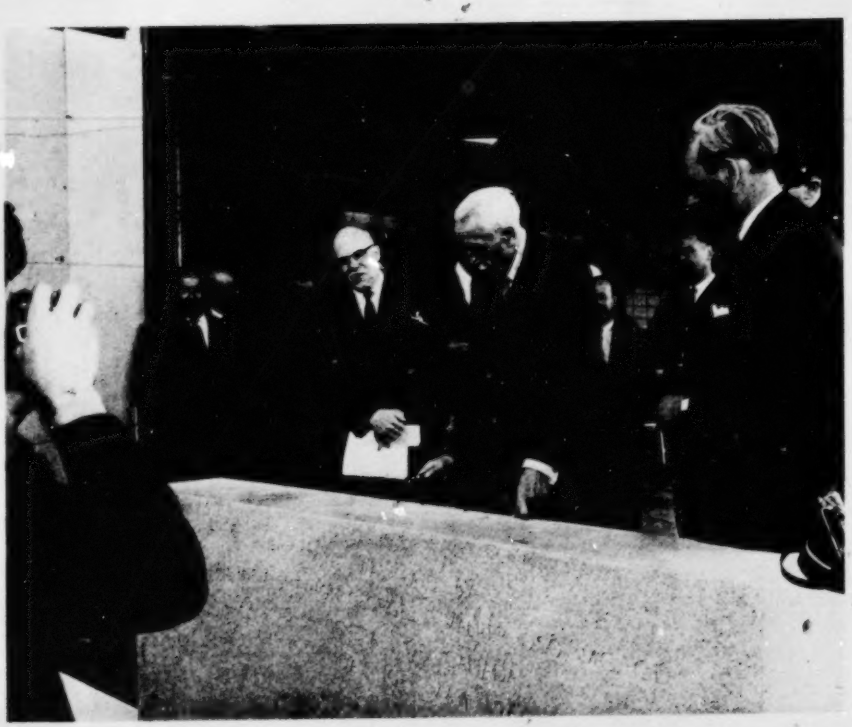
No. 1 Temporary building being demolished in 1963 to make way for the National Library and Archives building.
Credit: Department of Public Works

Chapter 5

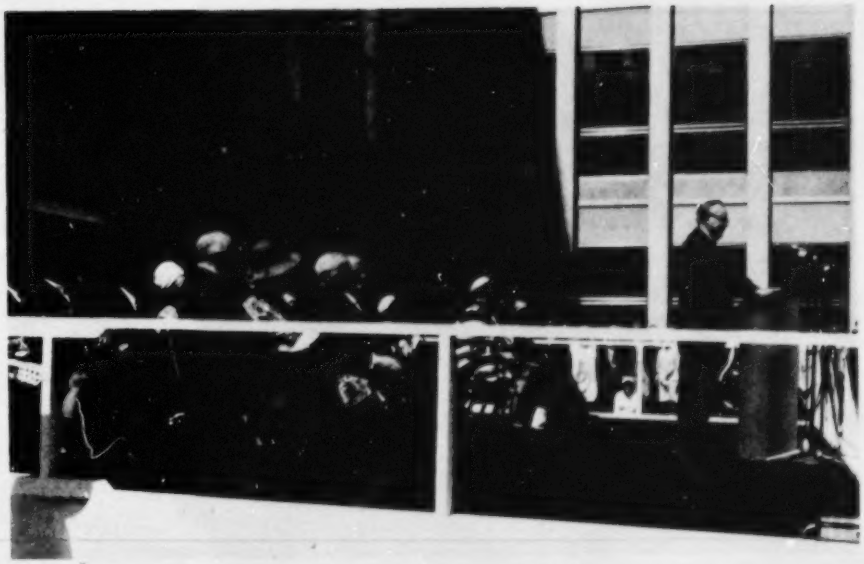
Out of the Wilderness

Dr. Lamb, in his annual reports, reiterated the growing need for an adequate building to house the National Library, and the detrimental effect the lack of a proper building had on the growth of the Library's services and collections.

The construction of a building was postponed for various reasons. For example, an explosion that shattered the interior of a downtown government building on a Saturday morning in 1958 also shattered plans to begin construction of the National Library and Archives building, since employees who worked in the building where the explosion occurred had to be moved to the vacated building that was about to be torn down to make way for the National Library and Archives building. At last, however, construction



Governor-General Vanier laying the cornerstone of the National Library and Archives building. Left to right: Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, Governor-General Vanier, and the Hon. Maurice Lamontagne.



Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson speaking at the official opening of the National Library and Archives building.

began, and the cornerstone of the new building was laid on May 10, 1965, by Governor-General Georges Vanier.

Although the long delay retarded the growth of the National Library, at least the eleven-year period at Tunney's Pasture gave the staff time to catalogue and organize some of the materials acquired and to form and develop a number of services. Nevertheless, the need for additional space and better facilities had grown more and more pressing.

Canada celebrated its Centennial in 1967. It was a triumphant year, a time of pride, optimism, and renewal. The year of Canada's Centennial and of Expo 67 was a landmark for the National Library: on June 20 of that year, the $13-million National Library and Archives building, on Wellington Street overlooking the Ottawa River, was officially opened by Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson. Dr. Lamb had led his brave band of followers out of the wilderness and into the Promised Land.

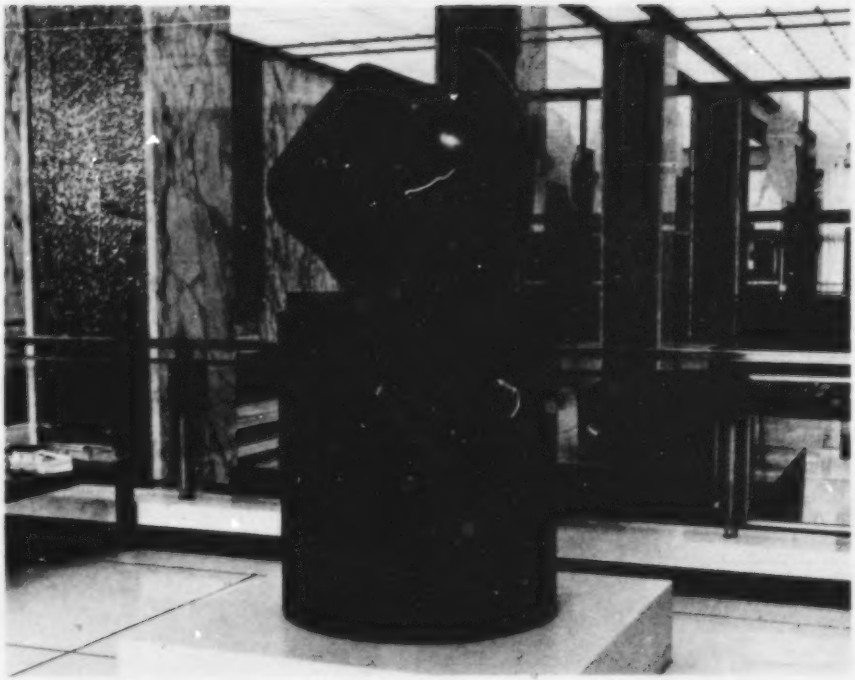
As Dr. Lamb said in his annual report for the fiscal year 1965–66 (p.1), the new building would "provide the Library and its sister institution, the Public Archives, with 13 acres of floor space and

The auditorium.

stackrooms with a total of 80 miles of shelving. The move into the new quarters will take several months, as staff and library and archival materials of all sorts will have to be assembled from seven other buildings."

The move was carried out smoothly and efficiently. Then the staff had to cope with providing new services and developing new procedures: there were information and circulation desks to be manned, reading rooms to be supervised, exhibitions to be prepared, tours to be conducted — in short, a host of new challenges and responsibilities. After the years of isolation at Tunney's Pasture, the National Library found itself on centre stage following its move to the new building and was suddenly faced with the necessity of providing normal library services to the public and, for the first time, of dealing with readers.

For the veterans of Tunney's Pasture, who had worked in such discouraging conditions, it seemed almost miraculous to be working in so spacious and sumptuous a building, which at first looked awesome, huge, and empty. They were proud to be in possession of a new, fully air-conditioned building that contained many impressive features: a large main reading room and a capacious room for reference works and card catalogues; a newspaper reading room for users of the Library's new and sizable collection of Canadian newspapers, transferred to the National Library from the Library of Parliament and the Public Archives; an auditorium, with more than four hundred seats; interesting works of art, such as the glass engravings by John Hutton, colorful mural paintings by Charles Comfort and Alfred Pellan, and a sculpture by Henry Moore, presented by the British Government; exhibition and meeting rooms, which, like the auditorium, are made available to government departments and to cultural and nonprofit organizations; a vast and striking main foyer; a beautiful marble staircase; and a cluster of private study rooms for researchers.



The main lobby of the National Library and Archives building, showing the sculpture by Henry Moore, Three Way Piece-Points. In the background are some of the glass engravings by John Hutton.

W. Kaye Lamb retired as National Librarian in 1968. His last annual report, covering the fiscal year 1967–68, was perhaps his most impressive. In it, he mentioned that the National Library published in 1968 a union list of *Periodicals in the Social Sciences and Humanities Currently Received by Canadian Libraries* and a *Union List of Non-Canadian Newspapers Held by Canadian Libraries*, which was compiled

by Stephan Rush, the first Head of the Newspaper Section; that the authorized number of positions at the National Library had increased to 224 by April 1, 1968; that there had been an increase of 17 per cent in the number of location requests (almost half of which had been sent by Telex) and that the Library was able to locate almost 80 per cent of the publications requested; that an Office of Library Resources had been created in the National Library, with a view to gathering and disseminating information about the holdings of Canadian research libraries and studying their strengths and weaknesses,[6] and that the National Library had acquired more than 3,000 Canadian sound recordings, purchased for the Library by the Centennial Commission and selected by Edward B. Moogk. Dr. Lamb's final report included a study of federal government libraries in Ottawa, conducted by Dr. Lamb and Dr. Jack Brown, Chief Librarian of the National Science Library. The published study was a short one, but at least it was a first attempt to survey federal government libraries.

This report also referred to the collection of books given to the National Library as part of Canada's Centennial gift from Great Britain. Among the thousands of books donated to the Library were a number of rare and valuable publications, including the first edition of Bacon's *Essays*, and the first printed editions of Euclid's *Elementa* and the works of Plato.

[6] The creation of the Office had been recommended by the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries and by Edwin E. Williams in his report on *Resources of Canadian University Libraries for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences* (Ottawa: National Conference of Canadian Universities and Colleges, 1962).

One of the stack areas. Mr. Eric Stead is seen on an electric scooter used by the stack service personnel.

Other gifts received by the National Library during the Centennial year included a collection of books on the performing arts, presented by the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority; some 350 books donated by the Lenin State Library in Moscow; a gift of Judaic publications, presented by the Jewish community in Canada, through the Canadian Jewish Congress; and a gift of Danish literary classics, donated by the Royal Library in Copenhagen.

The National Library and Archives building

Chapter 6

The End of an Era

Dr. Lamb's accomplishments were many. His successor inherited a large modern building, an establishment that had grown from 14 positions to 224, sizable, though far-from-fully-catalogued collections, and a number of important services.

Because of a shortage of space and staff, the National Library, during the first fifteen years of its existence, had remained, to a considerable extent, a bibliographic centre, its main services being the publication of *Canadiana* and *Canadian Theses* and the provision of a location service by means of the Union Catalogue. By comparison with the lively period after the move to the new building, the evolution of the Library in the years preceding the move was slow and life during that period, relatively tranquil. There had been a long period during which the Library was stunted and retarded by the shortage of space and staff. Much growth and change, however, took place toward the end of the Lamb era, and once the Library moved from Tunney's Pasture, it became imbued with a new pride and a new vitality.

There were demands from the library, research, and academic communities that the National Library add to its services and adopt a more active leadership role. Following the move to the new building, the Library was in a better position to meet these demands, and a period of rapid development was to begin after Dr. Lamb's successor took office.

Guy Sylvestre
Photo by John Evans

Chapter 7

Great Expectations (1968–1978)

Dr. Lamb, in addition to guiding the National Library through its formative years, also led the Public Archives through a period of remarkable progress and expansion. When he retired, separate directors were appointed for the two departments, as had been recommended by the Canadian Library Association, the Royal Commission on Government Organization, and the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters, and Sciences. For the first time, the National Library had a director who could fully devote himself to the Library.

W. Kaye Lamb was succeeded in 1968 — another significant date — by Guy Sylvestre. The second National Librarian is a scholar (well known for his writings on French-Canadian literature) with broad cultural interests. Moreover, he has had considerable library and government experience, having been Private Secretary to Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent (the prime minister who, in 1952, introduced in Parliament the first bill proposing the creation of the National Library) and, for many years, Associate Parliamentary Librarian.

Adèle Languedoc retired in 1969, after having served since 1964 as Assistant National Librarian. Lachlan F. MacRae was appointed Associate National Librarian (in the National Library Act of 1969, the title of Assistant National Librarian changed to Associate National Librarian). Mr. MacRae had been Head Librarian of the Fort William Public Library, Director of the Scientific Information Service, Defence Research Board, and Chief Librarian at the University of Guelph. He served from 1970 to 1977 as Associate National Librarian; in 1977, he became Special Advisor to the National Librarian.

The second National Librarian, who quickly revealed himself to be an innovator, threw himself energetically into his job and launched a series of task forces, studies, and surveys. He was impatient to see the Library grow in importance and usefulness. He was also eager to implement recommendations from the library and research communities concerning changes and improvements in the services of the Library.

In an effort to expand, improve, and publicize the Library, Dr. Sylvestre has continually sought advice from outside the Library, through surveys, meetings with librarians, and from the national task forces he created.[7] The National Library Advisory Board[8] also has been a source of advice.

The following general goals underlie Dr. Sylvestre's efforts and undertakings: to provide leadership in the Canadian library world; to foster cooperation among

[7] In addition, the Library, during the Sylvestre era, has entered into many contracts with institutions and individuals outside the Library and has assigned to them research to be done, and studies and standards to be prepared.

[8] Many distinguished Canadians have served on the National Library Advisory Board, which now consists of eighteen members. The Board has had two chairmen: Miss Aileen Tufts, Head, Business Division, Vancouver Public Library, and, since 1975, Dr. René de Chantal, vice-recteur, Université de Montréal.

libraries; to improve, diversify, and publicize the services of the National Library; and to cooperate with other countries and international agencies and organizations. Many of his goals and views were expressed in a speech, delivered in 1970 at the annual conference of the Canadian Library Association, in which he said: "The National Library has a definite role to play in the development of a national information network. It should act as a coordinator, both at the Government and at the national levels, it should provide guidance in planning systems; it should also help in their implementation. It should . . . contribute to the rationalization of research collections."[9]

Two important documents preface the many changes and initiatives that have taken place during the Sylvestre years.

The first of these is the new National Library Act, which came into force in 1969. The new Act states that "the National Librarian may coordinate the library services of departments, branches, and agencies of the Government of Canada, including: a) the acquisition and cataloguing of books; b) the supply of professional advice, supervision, and personnel; and c) the provision of modern information storage and retrieval services, including photocopying and microfilming services, electronic and other automated data processing services, and facsimile or other communication of information services." The Act states also that "the National Librarian may . . . enter into agreements with libraries and library and educational associations and institutions in and outside Canada in respect of library services."[10]

Another document that gave a foretaste of changes to come was Dr. Sylvestre's brief, which has been called "the Sylvestre manifesto," presented in 1969 to the Senate Special Committee on Science Policy. This brief recommended improvements in, and the automation of, various services and publications of the National Library, such as the national bibliography and the Union Catalogue. The brief also contained recommendations on the coordination of federal government libraries, the establishment of an Office of Library Systems, the development of a duplicate exchange service, the establishment of exchanges of publications with other countries, and other proposals. These recommendations and the implementation of them are discussed elsewhere in this book.

Since the late 1960s, great emphasis has been placed on automation. Dr. Sylvestre was aware that the speed, versatility, and storage capacity of computers could help the Library cope with the huge quantities of information it has to process and that automation could lead to new ways of providing access to information, new bibliographic services, a faster location service, and an accelerated production of *Canadiana*.

In his first annual report, he mentioned that he had asked the Bureau of Management Consulting Services of the Department of Supply and Services to conduct a preliminary study of the functions of the National Library in order to determine the potential benefits of electronic data processing in a number of areas of the Library and to decide which areas were best suited for automation. A team made up of members of the staff of the Library[11] and of the Bureau of Management Consulting Services was formed, and the report of the Systems Development Project, as it was called, was presented in 1970. The report proposed the automation of the Union Catalogue and the development of a data base of machine-readable bibliographic records. The report also proposed that additional studies be made on subjects such as the automation of the Union Catalogue.

In addition, the report recommended that "An integrated bibliographic information system for the National Library be developed, comprising all the operations of acquisitions, cataloguing, *Canadiana*, serials control, the Union Catalogue, and union lists which permit handling by electronic data processing."[12] The implementation of that recommendation became one of the major objectives of the National Library. Many batch systems were developed and implemented, and by

[9] Guy Sylvestre, "The Prime Mover: the Role of the National Library," Canadian Library Association, *Proceedings, 25th Annual Conference, Hamilton, Ontario, June 20-25, 1970* (Ottawa: Canadian Library Association, 1971), p.14.

[10] "An Act concerning the National Library," *Revised Statutes of Canada, 1970* (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1970), 5:5401.

[11] Hope Clement, Paul Kitchen, and Louis Forget were chosen by the National Librarian for this task.

[12] National Library of Canada, *An Integrated Information System for the National Library of Canada, a Summary of the Report of the Systems Development Project* (Ottawa: National Library of Canada, 1970), p. 5.

1978, the Library had selected an on-line, integrated, automated system capable of managing its bibliographic data base.

The library-management system being developed by the National Library will provide on-line facilities for searching, cataloguing (including shared cataloguing), acquisitions, serials control, binding, accounting, and circulation. Development of the system is an important step toward the building of a national bibliographic data base and the operation of an automated, on-line union catalogue system. This management system is being considered as the system for a network of federal government libraries, and also for a national bibliographic network.

In 1970, a Research and Planning Branch was created for the purpose of conducting research recommended by the Systems Development Project and for the purpose of implementing systems. The first Director of the Research and Planning Branch was Grover Burgis. This Branch has assembled a staff of programmers, system analysts, and organization-and-methods analysts, who have designed and implemented automated systems for the Library, conducted analyses of operations and procedures, improved manual systems, provided advice on data processing to other libraries, and coordinated network planning.

Dr. Sylvestre called a two-day National Conference on Cataloguing Standards in 1970. This led to the formation of a Canadian Task Group on Cataloguing Standards, chaired by Grover Burgis, to recommend standards for bibliographic records and to propose improvements in the cataloguing of Canadian publications. It was composed of experts from the National Library and other Canadian libraries, as were later National Library task groups.

The *Report* of the Task Group was published in 1972. It made recommendations on the standardization of entry and bibliographic description; the classification of Canadian history, literature, and law; Canadian subject headings; and the processing of serials and government publications. Many of the recommendations have subsequently been implemented: classification schedules for Canadian history and literature were prepared and published by the National Library; the Library participated with the Library of Congress in the preparation of the Library of Congress classification schedule for Canadian law; and the Library is now responsible for the preparation and publication of lists of Canadian subject headings in English and for the joint production with Université Laval of lists of subject headings in French.

A second task force, also chaired by Grover Burgis, the MARC Task Group, was appointed in 1971. MARC is an acronym signifying MAchine-Readable Cataloguing. Developed by the Library of Congress, it is a means of communicating and exchanging bibliographic records in machine-readable form. The object of the MARC Task Group, whose *Report* was published in 1972, was to provide specifications for the development of MARC formats for use in Canada. Special attention was given to the need to provide bilingual access to Canadian records, together with the need for compatibility with other formats.

The National Librarian, in his annual report for the fiscal year 1972–73, announced that a Canadian MARC format for monographs had been developed and was being used in the automation of *Canadiana* and that a Canadian MARC format for serials would be developed and used in a later phase of the automation of the national bibliography. The various Canadian MARC formats have since been published by the National Library.

The Canadian MARC formats were developed by the Library in cooperation with the Library of Congress and are based on the Library of Congress MARC, but they are adapted for Canadian needs and are designed to meet the requirements of a bilingual bibliographic

Lachlan F. MacRae

network in Canada. A simplified format, called Mini-MARC, has also been developed; it identifies minimum coding specifications and a minimum level of detail necessary for reporting machine-readable accessions to the Union Catalogue.

The Office of Library Standards was established at the National Library for the purpose of developing Canadian bibliographic and MARC standards, coordinating them with and providing Canadian input to international standards, and contributing to Canadian and international bibliographic control. The Office participates in the work of the Canadian Committee on Cataloguing and the Canadian Committee on MARC, which serve to make the Library aware of Canadian requirements concerning cataloguing rules, international standard bibliographic description, and MARC formats. The Office also participates in the work of the Joint Steering Committee for Revision of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, and Technical Committee 46 of the International Organization for Standardization.

The development of standards was one of the primary objectives of Guy Sylvestre, since the establishment of standards was a requisite first step toward the fulfillment of some of his other objectives: the automation of National Library services, such as *Canadiana* and the Union Catalogue; the building of an automated bibliographic data base and a national information network; and the exchange of bibliographic information with other countries. Compatibility through use of common standards is required if cooperation and communication are to be achieved at the national and international levels.

We shall see how the efforts to achieve these objectives have affected the services of the National Library.

Cataloguing, *Canadiana*, and Related Services

Canadiana has grown greatly as a result of the growth of the Canadian publishing industry, the extension of legal deposit regulations, and the inclusion of additional types of materials in the national bibliography. The first cumulation of *Canadiana*, covering 1950–51, contained 2,951 entries; in 1977, 28,512 entries were listed in *Canadiana*.

In 1968, the National Library began using automation for the production of the indexes to *Canadiana*. To speed up the production of the national bibliography and to make cataloguing data available in a computer-usable form, the Library aimed thereafter for the full automation of *Canadiana*. Inevitably, the introduction of automation, the use of new bibliographic standards, and the increase in the number of entries led to delays in the production and publication of *Canadiana*.

The automation of *Canadiana* proceeded in several stages, and Canadian MARC formats developed by the National Library for monographs, serials, music, and audiovisual materials were used once the formats became available. First, in 1974, came the production of machine-readable cataloguing data, computer-produced cards, tape services, and printed copy for monographs and theses in microform. Then, in 1975, came serials, pamphlets, and government publications, followed, in 1978, by sound recordings.

A Canadian MARC Tape Distribution Service was started in 1975 as a pilot project, and tapes containing machine-readable records for publications appearing in *Canadiana* became available on a subscription basis. The MARC Records Distribution Service was developed as a result of this pilot project. The National Library now offers Canadian libraries MARC records of foreign national libraries, such as those of the United States and Great Britain, and it is developing programs for the conversion of INTERMARC (French) tapes to the Canadian MARC format. Canadian MARC tapes are sent to other national libraries in exchange for their tapes;[13] this allows other countries to disseminate information contained on Canadian tapes in return for allowing the National Library to distribute the cataloguing records of other countries to Canadian libraries. The distribution of MARC cataloguing data on tape should help to reduce the duplication of original cataloguing and to speed up and increase the production of cataloguing done in Canadian libraries.

During the 1970s, the National Library developed an integrated *Canadiana* cataloguing system. Machine-readable cataloguing information is prepared for *Canadiana* and for other publications catalogued at the Library. Before 1970, two separate cataloguing procedures,

[13] The National Library and the Library of Congress established the first international tape exchange program.

carried out by separate staffs, were followed in the preparation of records for *Canadiana* and for the National Library catalogues; an integrated system was adopted in 1970.

The National Library has developed an automated authority file containing corporate and personal names and subject headings established according to international standards. Authority records on microfiche are available to Canadian libraries. The authority file, which is used to support the *Canadiana* cataloguing system and the production of Canadian MARC tapes, ensures that all names and subject headings can be incorporated into the automated systems and that bilingual equivalents can be automatically substituted. The National Library's authority file contributes to the consistency of headings used in *Canadiana* and in the Library's catalogues. The automated authority file system also serves to convert records from other libraries and countries to headings used by the National Library. The Library's authority file system will help ensure consistency in the use of headings throughout Canada and the standardization of entries sent to the Union Catalogue.

Another important development took place in 1976, when the Canadian Cataloguing in Publication (CIP) program became operational. In this cooperative, decentralized program, Canadian libraries in major publishing centres act as cataloguing agents for the National Library. The CIP program provides participating publishers with cataloguing information to be printed in forthcoming books. The purpose of the program, which supplies bibliographic information both for publishers and for the MARC Records Distribution Service, is to make cataloguing information available as quickly as possible, to reduce original cataloguing costs for libraries, to encourage standardization in cataloguing, and to benefit Canadian publishers by disseminating information about books well in advance of their publication. Prepublication cataloguing has speeded up the appearance of machine-readable cataloguing data on the Canadian MARC tapes, since CIP information is put on Canadian MARC tapes for distribution in Canada and abroad.

In 1973, the National Library was invited to be the official Canadian National Centre for the International Serials Data System (ISDS). The purpose of ISDS is to register all serial publications and to identify them by means of unique standard code numbers assigned to serials. ISDS Canada, a section of the National Library's Cataloguing Branch, assigns International Standard Serial Numbers to Canadian serials. These numbers, together with the required bibliographic data for each serial, are sent to the ISDS International Centre in Paris for input into the international data base.

In 1975, at the request of the Canadian Library Association and of Canadian book industry associations, the Library accepted the responsibility of assigning blocks of International Standard Book Numbers to publishers in English Canada; the Conseil supérieur du livre has delegated a similar responsibility, for Quebec publishers, to the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec. The unique standard numbers are used for ordering, stock control, and accessing automated data bases. International standard numbers are included in cataloguing information appearing in *Canadiana*.

Other developments increasing the usefulness of *Canadiana* are the inclusion in the national bibliography of Library of Congress classification numbers and of English and French subject headings, the publication of cumulative indexes covering the years 1963 to 1976, and a weekly service that now provides *Canadiana* records on microfiche, in advance of the printed *Canadiana*.

Retrospective Bibliography

And what of the bibliography of Canadiana, 1867–1900, the imminent completion and publication of which Dr. Lamb kept announcing in his annual reports? After Dr. Tanghe's retirement, his assistant, Madeleine Pellerin, continued work on the bibliography until her death in 1971. A Retrospective National Bibliography Division was established in 1972 and undertook a review of the bibliography, with a view to completing an index to it and preparing the bibliography for publication. Because of other priorities, work on the bibliography was held in abeyance from 1973 to 1975. In 1975, the Division was reactivated, and progress has been made since that time. The Retrospective National Bibliography Division plans to produce retrospective bibliographies up to 1950, beginning with the 1867–1900 period, using standard cataloguing practices and in a machine-readable format. The retrospective bibliographies of Canadiana will be a component of the national bibliographic data base that the National Library is developing.

The Union Catalogues and the Location Service

As already mentioned, the Union Catalogue of Books has grown enormously over the years. It contains some 12 million cards, and about 1.4 million new accession cards arrive each year. The growth of the Union Catalogue reflects that of Canadian libraries and of the publishing industry.

Because of the rapid inflation of the Union Catalogue, no library catalogues were microfilmed after the mid-1960s. It would have been unwise to continue microfilming card catalogues, since the National Library lacked the staff to process all the microfilms it had obtained during the 1950s and 1960s and to incorporate them into the Union Catalogue; several microfilmed library catalogues have not yet been integrated into the Catalogue.

Although the staff of the Union Catalogue has made heroic efforts to cope with the mass of accession cards, to increase efficiency, and to reduce the size of the Catalogue by eliminating duplicate cards, automation has long been regarded as the best means of controlling the Catalogue and of providing a faster location service. The conversion of the Union Catalogue to machine-readable form was recommended in the Downs[14] and in the Macdonald[15] reports. Dr. Sylvestre realized that the Union Catalogue must be brought under better control (until which time, he stressed, the addition of other libraries to the Union Catalogue should be curbed) and that automation is the ultimate solution.

The Canadian Task Group on Cataloguing Standards established standards for the creation of bibliographic records, and the MARC Task Group established the vehicle for the exchange of bibliographic records in machine-readable form. A third task group, the Canadian Union Catalogue Task Group, concerned itself with the data base of these records and the network of Canadian libraries using it. This third task group, chaired by Basil Stuart-Stubbs, was formed in 1972, and its *Report* was published in 1976. The purpose of the Task Group was to study the Union Catalogue and its conversion to machine-readable form, the long-term goal being to create an automated national bibliographic data base, containing machine-readable records from many sources, on which a Canadian library network can be built. The national bibliographic data base will enable libraries to locate publications and will also provide cataloguing and other information.

The Task Group recommended that current accessions to the Union Catalogue be entered into an automated, on-line system and that the existing card catalogue be closed off, edited, and eventually published in microform. It also made recommendations on the establishment of a Canadian union catalogue network, including loan and location services, to be developed out of a number of regional or provincial bibliographic centres across Canada, linked to the National Library's Union Catalogue, and on the development of standard systems for producing union lists of serials.

In 1977, Canadian libraries were invited to start reporting accessions to the Union Catalogue in machine-readable (MARC) form. An automated Union Catalogue was at last in sight.

In addition to the main Union Catalogue — the Union Catalogue of Books — the National Library has formed satellite union catalogues of periodicals, newspapers, official publications, and Canadian music.

In 1968, the Library published a union list of *Periodicals in the Social Sciences and Humanities Currently Received by Canadian Libraries*, which would have been more useful had it contained the periodical holdings of the libraries included. Thereafter, it was the intention of the National Library to publish a computer-produced union list of periodicals in the social sciences and humanities that would contain holdings information; this has not yet been accomplished. In the meantime, the Union Catalogue of Serials Division has published a number of "mini" union lists, such as the *Union List of Serials in Education and Sociology Held by Canadian Libraries*, published in 1975. A list deserving special mention is the *Union List of Polish Serials in Canadian Libraries*, compiled by Henryk Kozlowski and published by the National Library in 1977; this union list contains much useful bibliographic and background information.

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[14] Robert B. Downs, *Resources of Canadian Academic and Research Libraries* (Ottawa: Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, 1967).

[15] Canada, Science Council, *The Role of the Federal Government in Support of Research in Canadian Universities* (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1969).

The National Library was instrumental in initiating a United States – Canadian serials project, CONSER (CONversion of SERials), to develop a cooperative serials data base made up of serials records in machine-readable form. The National Library decided to participate in CONSER in order to acquire an automated serials data base that would assist the Library in producing union lists of serials and contributing to the International Serials Data System (ISDS). The contribution of the National Library to CONSER entails verifying personal and corporate names for Canadian serials, and assigning International Standard Serial Numbers. The Library provides the CONSER data base with machine-readable serial records prepared, since the mid-1970s, for *Canadiana*. In 1975, the Library also began the retrospective cataloguing of Canadian serials for on-line input to CONSER.

In 1977, the National Library published the long-awaited *Union List of Canadian Newspapers Held by Canadian Libraries*, which complements the union list of non-Canadian newspapers that the Library published in 1968.

During the 1968–78 decade, the Library's location/interlibrary loan service continued in full swing. In the fiscal year 1976–77, the average number of titles requested was about 600 each workday, and the Library lent 33,228 items. A study conducted in 1975 showed the National Library to be the second largest lender of library materials in Canada. Almost 80 per cent of the titles requested are located in Canada, and, on an average, 25 per cent are lent from the National Library's own collections.[16] All materials held by the Library are available for interlibrary loan, with the exception of rare books, manuscripts, sound recordings, reference works, and original newspapers. (For newspapers, the Library lends microfilm copies, if held, and often supplies photocopies.)

The Library provides a link between interuniversity truck delivery systems in Ontario and Quebec, the primary purpose of which is to expedite the delivery of interlibrary loans. It also participates in an interlibrary loan truck delivery service (begun in 1976) in the Ottawa-Hull area.

Bibliographic and Reference Services

The staff advises and assists users who are compiling bibliographies, and the Library maintains a strong collection of national and subject bibliographies for the benefit of researchers. The Library also maintains a collection (begun in 1969) of unpublished bibliographies in the social sciences and humanities.

In 1975, a Committee on Bibliographical Services for Canada was created, under the aegis of the National Library Advisory Board. The National Library provides a permanent secretariat for the Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to make recommendations on bibliographic activities in Canada, to assist in the coordination of bibliographic activities, and to provide a clearinghouse of information on bibliographic projects. The Committee was instrumental in forming the Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada in 1977.

Between 1968 and 1978, the National Library published a number of bibliographies. These include *Bibliographie de la danse théâtrale* (1970) by Pierre Guilmette; *Healey Willan Catalogue* (1972) by Giles Bryant; *Notable Canadian Children's Books* (1973) by Sheila Egoff and Alvine Bélisle (a second edition, prepared by Irene Aubrey, was published in 1976); *Indian-Inuit Authors, an Annotated Bibliography* (1974); *Roll Back the Years, History of Canadian Recorded Sound and Its Legacy, Genesis to 1930* (which was published in 1975 and contains a long discography of Canadian sound recordings) by Edward Moogk; and *Women in Federal Politics, a Bio-Bibliography* (1975), compiled by Gwynneth Evans and edited by Marion Wilson. In 1977, the National Library published the *Proceedings* of the National Conference on the State of Canadian Bibliography (held in Vancouver, May 1974) and began publishing *Checklists of Law Reports and Statutes in Canadian Law Libraries*. In 1978, the Library published *Theses in Canada: a Guide to Sources of Information about Theses Completed or in Preparation*, by Susan Bruchet and Gwynneth Evans.

The Library has continued to compile the annual "Books about Canada" list for the *Canada Year Book* and to prepare, for UNESCO's *Index Translationum*, an annual list of books published in translation in Canada. It has also continued to provide UNESCO with

[16] The percentage is much higher for some types of materials. Eighty-five per cent of Canadian official publications and eighty-nine per cent of newspapers were found in the collections of the National Library in the fiscal year 1976–77.

The main Reading Room. In the background can be seen one of the mural paintings by Charles Comfort.

reports on Canadian bibliographical services. In addition, the National Library has prepared lists of additions to its philatelic book collection for inclusion in the *Canadian Philatelist*, and annotated lists of Canadian historical books for the *Revista de Historia de América*, to which it began contributing in 1970.

To serve the public, bilingual employees are on duty at the Library's information and circulation desks. An excellent collection of reference works is at the disposal of researchers, and the reading rooms of the Library are open to them on a 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week basis. Lockers are available for the storage of borrowed materials, and a few private study rooms are provided for the use of researchers.

The Library provides general reference and referral services to other libraries, to departments and agencies of the federal government, and to adult researchers.

Special Services

During the decade 1968–78, a number of special services, intended to increase and broaden the usefulness of the Library, were created, and specialists were hired to operate the new services. In addition to developing collections, these specialists provide reference and advisory services and are often consulted on matters relating to their specialties. For example, the Chief of the Music Division is a consultant to, and an editor of, the encyclopedia of music in Canada, now being prepared; the staff of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Division is consulted about the value and rarity of old books; and the Children's Literature Librarian/Consultant is often asked to evaluate children's books and magazines, to advise concerning speakers on children's literature, and to suggest out-of-print children's books that might be republished.

1. Music

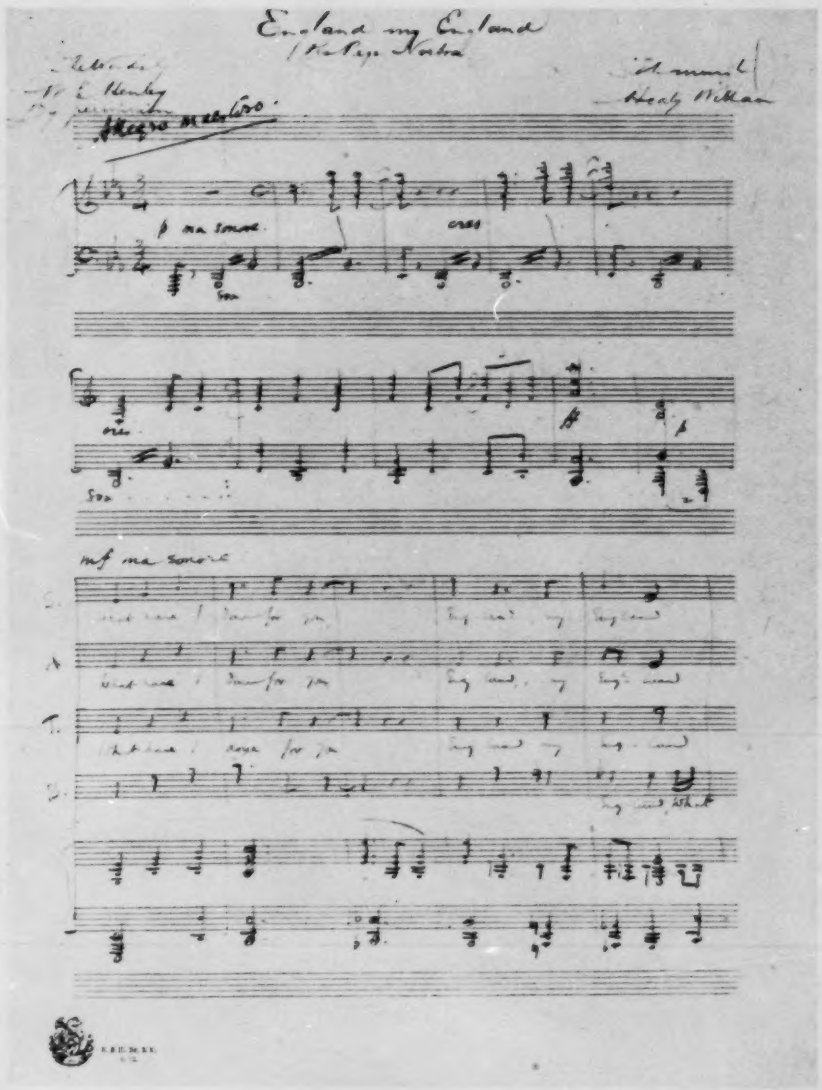
With the hiring in 1970 of Helmut Kallmann — author of *A History of Music in Canada, 1534–1914* and editor of the *Catalogue of Canadian Composers* — the Music Division was created. Dr. Kallmann was the first subject specialist hired by the Library, and the Music Division, its first subject division.

Important steps toward the formation of a music collection were taken in 1957, when the Library acquired the Percy Scholes library, and in 1967, when some 3,000 Canadian sound recordings were acquired (the nucleus of a collection that was to grow tenfold during the following decade, partly because the Library has received

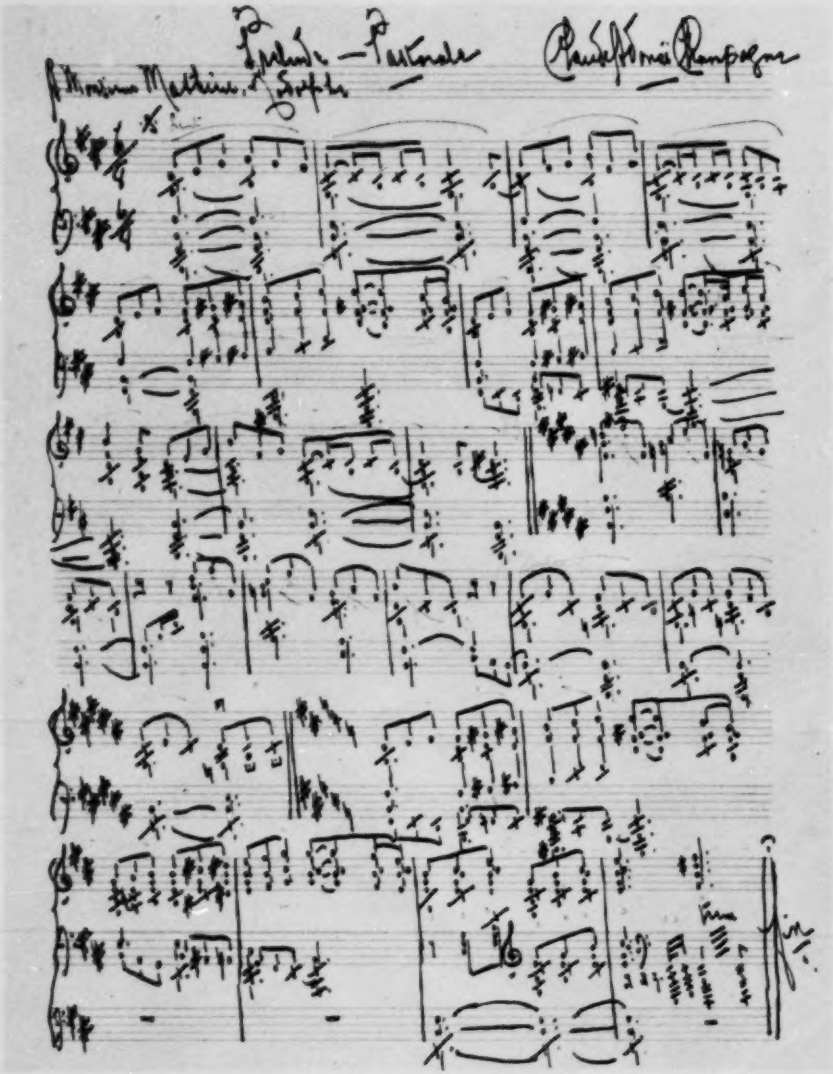
Canadian sound recordings on legal deposit since 1969). By the time the Music Division was founded, the Library had also acquired a large collection of sheet music obtained through copyright deposit during the period from Confederation to the 1920s, and substantial holdings of Canadian printed music published since the early 1950s.

The Division now has large collections of printed and manuscript materials, and of sound recordings. By the end of 1977, it held about 15,000 volumes, 40,000 pieces of sheet music, 20,000 concert programs, and 30,000 sound recordings. The emphasis is on Canadian music.[17] Notable acquisitions since 1970 include a collection of some 20,000 French songs of the 19th century and the papers and manuscripts of Canadian composers and musicians such as Alexis Contant, Hector Gratton, Healey Willan, Claude Champagne, Murray Adaskin, S.-C. Eckhardt-Gramatté, Arnold Walter, Pauline Donalda, Alfred Whitehead, and R. Murray Schafer, and the papers and archives of organizations such as the Canadian League of Composers and the Canadian Association of Music Libraries.

The Division has edited and published a catalogue of the works of Healey Willan and a history of recorded sound in Canada.



Autograph manuscript of "England My England," a choral ballad composed by Healey Willan in 1914.

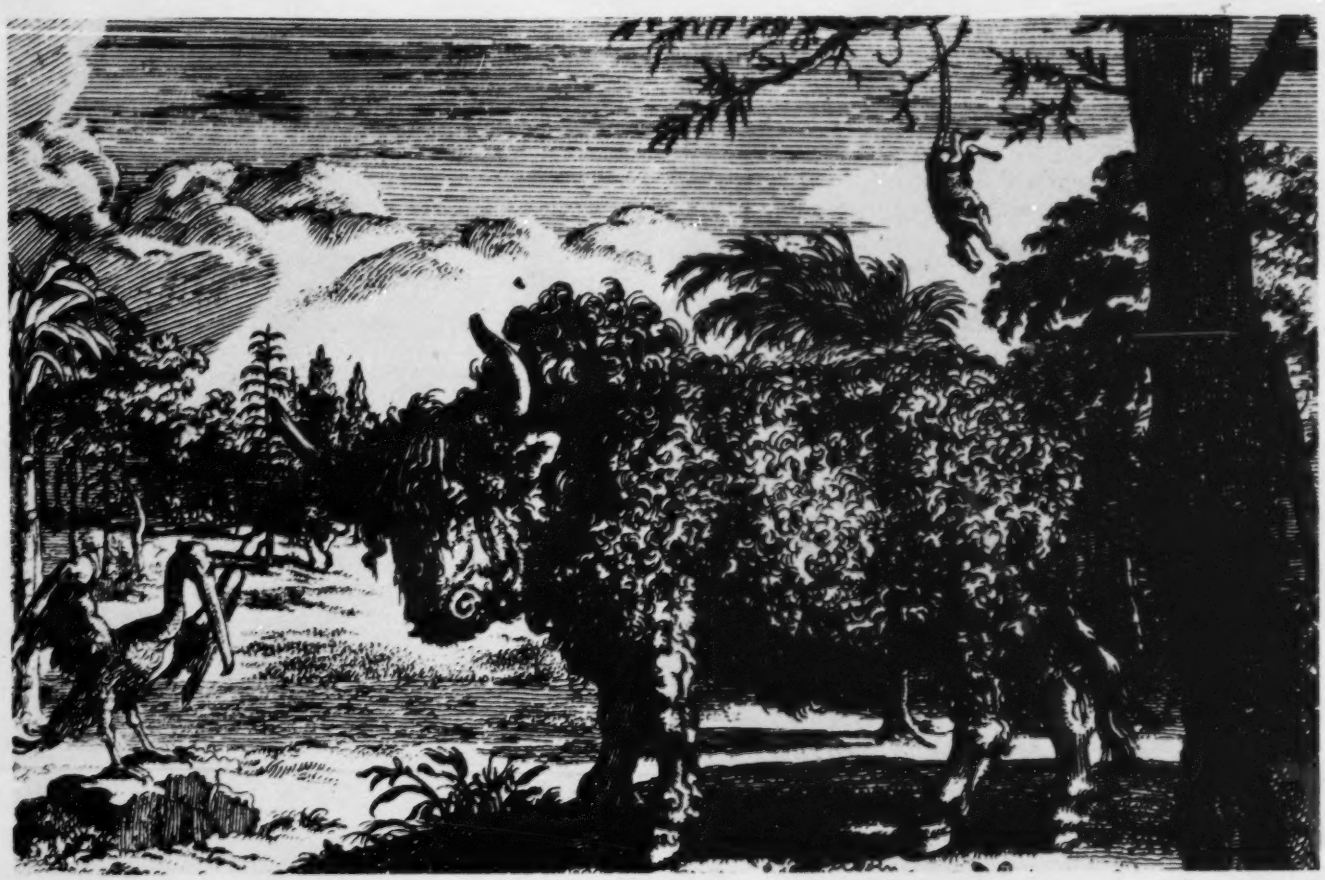
[17] The *Report* of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters, and Sciences recommended that the National Library collect Canadian music in printed and in manuscript form.

Autograph manuscript of an early piece of piano music by Claude Champagne, "Prélude-Pastorale," composed in 1917 and dedicated to Rodolphe Mathieu.

2. Library Documentation Centre

The Library Documentation Centre was also established in 1970. Its function is to gather up-to-date information on library developments, especially those in Canada, in order to meet the reference and referral needs of the staff and users of the National Library. To this end, the Centre indexes a wide variety of materials, published and unpublished, in the field of library and information science, and, because of its special attention to Canadian developments, has become a central source of information on Canadian libraries, as well as a clearinghouse for information on library research and library-related information of many kinds. The services of the Centre are unique in Canada, and to date no other national library, at least in the western world, offers the same kind of services to its users.

The Library Documentation Centre is the Canadian depository for the papers of the annual conferences of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions; and, as the National Information Transfer Centre for UNESCO's International Information System on Research in Documentation (ISORID), it informs UNESCO and the International Federation for Documentation of library and information science research done in Canada.

The Centre prepares an annual *Directory of Library Associations in Canada* and has also published the first two parts of a



An early Canadiana item from the Rare Book Room. Buffalo from the first English edition of Louis Hennepin's *A New Discovery of a Vast Country in America, Extending Above Four Thousand Miles Between New France and New Mexico with a Description of the Great Lakes, Cataracts, Rivers, Plants and Animals.* (London, Printed for M. Bentley, J. Tonson. . ., 1698).

proposed four-part *Canadian Library Directory*.[18]

[18] Two parts have been published: *Federal Government Libraries* and *University, College, and Special Libraries*. Because of budgetary constraints, the publication of the parts pertaining to public and school libraries has been postponed.

3. Federal Libraries Liaison Office

The National Library Act gives the National Librarian the authority to "coordinate the library services of departments, branches, and agencies of the Government of Canada." As a logical consequence of that part of the National Library Act, a Federal Libraries Liaison Office was created in 1971. The Office was created for the purpose of conducting studies aimed at improving and

coordinating the library services of the Government of Canada and of providing consultative services to federal government libraries.

One of the first tasks of the Federal Libraries Liaison Office was to carry out a survey of federal government libraries and to gather information on some 190 libraries of the federal government across Canada, with a view to planning a library network and making recommendations on the collections, staffing, services, systems, operations, organization, and administration of the libraries. A *Summary of the Federal Government Library Survey Report* was published in 1974. Many of the recommendations in the *Report* have since been implemented.

One of the recommendations of the *Report* was the creation of a Council of Federal Libraries, which met for the first time in 1976. Made up of chief librarians of federal government departments, branches, and agencies, the Council advises the National Librarian on the coordination of federal government library services. The Federal Libraries Liaison Office acts as the secretariat of the Council and edits the Council's newsletter, *Liaison*.

The National Library hopes to implement a shared, machine-readable cataloguing system for federal government libraries.

4. Canadian Book Exchange Centre

The Canadian Book Exchange Centre was established in 1973. The Centre redistributes surplus library materials, which it receives from many sources, such as federal government libraries (the 1969 National Library Act requires that federal government departments send their surplus library materials to the National Library).

This national service has grown impressively. In the fiscal year 1976–77, the Centre received 1,619,620 items and distributed 523,380. Most of the publications are sent to Canadian libraries, though some materials are sent to other countries.

5. Computer-Based Reference Service

The January – February 1972 issue of the *National Library News* announced the Library's intention of developing two more special services: a multicultural program, and a selective-dissemination-of-information (SDI) service in the social sciences and humanities.

The SDI service, which was created in 1973 and was intended to complement the SDI program offered by the National Science Library in the field of science and technology, provides a current-awareness service by means of various data bases, such as the *Social Sciences Citation Index*, *Psychological Abstracts*, and the ERIC tapes; this computerized information-retrieval system alerts users to recent publications in fields that interest them. The Library also offers retrospective on-line searches, and by 1978, it was providing on-line access to 167 data bases. The Library, in addition to its literature-search service, provides and promotes training in the use of computerized literature searching, holds frequent seminars and demonstrations, and offers consulting services in this rapidly expanding area of library service.

6. Multicultural Program

The Multilingual Biblioservice was formed in 1973 in response to the need, expressed by the Canadian Library Association and the *Report* of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, to satisfy the requirements of Canada's many cultural groups for reading materials in their native languages.

The Multilingual Biblioservice, which provides a service unique among national libraries, selects, purchases, and catalogues books in languages other than English and French, and distributes them on long-term loan, through provincial library centres, to Canadian libraries to supplement the foreign-language holdings of public libraries in Canada. The Multilingual Biblioservice also issues a newsletter entitled *Flash*.

The National Library, as part of its multicultural program and that of the federal government, has undertaken to collect and preserve all serial publications of Canada's cultural communities.[19] In 1978, the Library is subscribing to more than 200 ethnic newspapers published by 42 Canadian cultural groups (Canadian newspapers are not received on legal deposit). The Library has also been microfilming Canadian ethnic newspapers to preserve them; it films newspapers in its own collection and sponsors the microfilming of newspapers held

[19] The Library has also acquired many non-serial Canadian publications in languages other than English and French.

Portrait of Joseph Brant, from History of the Indian Tribes of North America (1838 – 44), *by Thomas Loraine McKenney.*

elsewhere. In addition, an unpublished retrospective list of Canadian ethnic serials has been compiled.

7. **Rare Books and Manuscripts**

In 1973, a Rare Books and Manuscripts Division was formed to organize and develop the Library's collection of rare materials, to provide a reference service, and to plan and undertake a preservation program.

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Division has its own reading room, as does the Music Division. The two Divisions share a display room.

Although emphasis is put on the acquisition of Canadian materials, the collection includes many non-Canadian works as well.

In a haphazard way, the National Library had been acquiring rare books for many years before the Rare Books and Manuscripts Division was created, and a separate rare book collection was formed during the Tunney's Pasture period. The original core of the collection consisted of several hundred rare books transferred to the National Library from the Library of Parliament, many of which were French publications of the 16th and 17th centuries. In 1967, the Library acquired a number of rare and valuable books that were included in the large gift of books presented by the British Government. In 1977, the National Library received a generous gift from Jacob M. Lowy of some 2,000 rare Hebraic and Judaic books, with a market value of almost $2,000,000. Among these works are more than forty Hebrew and Latin incunabula, rare Bibles

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob M. Lowy, their daughters, and the Hon. John Roberts at the opening of the Jacob M. Lowy Room at the National Library, October 12, 1977.

and copies of the Talmud, a collection of old editions of Flavius Josephus, and many other rare books. The collection is housed in a special room in the Library. The rare book collection, though still small, has steadily expanded as a result of gifts (which the Library is always pleased to receive), purchases, and the acquisition of publications through legal deposit.

The *Report* of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters, and Sciences recommended that the National Library acquire literary manuscripts, and this is being done. The manuscript collection includes the papers and manuscripts of a number of Canadian writers, such as Arthur S. Bourinot, Duncan Campbell Scott, Philip Child, Marie-Claire Daveluy, and Claire Martin.

The Division has custody also of the Saul Hayes Hebraic Microfilm Collection, acquired through the efforts and financial contributions of the Canadian Jewish community. The collection consists of microfilm copies of Hebraic manuscripts held by libraries in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe.

One of the functions of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Division is to develop a conservation program, aimed primarily at preserving Canadian publications that are in a brittle and deteriorating condition because of the acid content of modern paper. The Division will undertake a large deacidification program, and it hopes to initiate a national preservation program.

8. **Children's Literature Service**

The children's literature service was established in 1975 as a result of recommendations made to the federal government in 1973 by the Canadian Library Association and the Association canadienne des bibliothécaires de langue française. Its functions are to provide a reference and bibliographic service in the fields of children's literature and library service to children, and to develop and organize the National Library's holdings of children's literature (the emphasis being on the acquisition of Canadian materials).

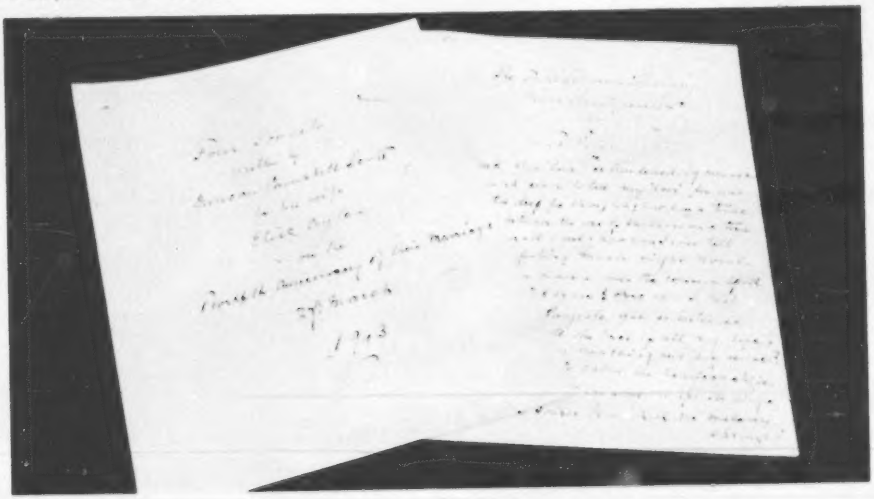
The Children's Literature Librarian/ Consultant has prepared several bibliographies, including a second edition of *Notable Canadian Children's Books*, and has undertaken to compile, with the help of a national selection committee, annual lists of outstanding Canadian books for children.

9. **Service for the Handicapped**

For several years, individuals, Canadian organizations of and for the handicapped, and Canadian libraries serving the handicapped have been urging the

Pages from one of the many notebook journals of Marie-Claire Daveluy, the noted Quebec librarian, historian, and author.

Manuscript of four sonnets written by the Canadian poet Duncan Campbell Scott for his second wife, Elise, a few years before his death.



National Library to take an active part in bettering library services for Canadians who are visually and physically handicapped, since such services have been generally inadequate in Canada.

In 1974, the National Librarian established a Task Group on Library Service to the Handicapped to study Canadian library services for those unable to use conventional print materials, to advise on the planning of a national program to improve library service to visually and physically handicapped Canadians, and to make recommendations on the role of the National Library in such a program. The *Report* of the Task Group, which was chaired by the author, was published in 1976. It recommended and outlined a national program of library service to the handicapped, to be coordinated by the National Library.

Unfortunately the budgetary constraints imposed on federal government departments in recent years have delayed the implementation of the recommendations contained in the *Report*. Because of a lack of staff and funds, the Division for the Visually and Physically Handicapped (which was founded in 1975) has limited itself to planning, providing a reference service, cooperating with other institutions, gathering documentation on library services for the handicapped, and producing a newsletter, *Extension*. The Division plans to compile a directory of Canadian library services for the handicapped and to develop a union catalogue of publications (on audio tape, in braille, and in large print) for the use of the handicapped.

Development of Collections

During the decade from 1968 to 1978, a steady buildup of the Library's collections of periodicals and newspapers took place. The Library receives on legal deposit two copies of current Canadian periodicals. Non-Canadian periodicals are acquired selectively in the social sciences and humanities, and the Library subscribes to a large number of periodicals to back up its SDI service. The Library has the largest collection of Canadian newspapers in Canada. Canadian newspapers, unlike Canadian periodicals, are not received on legal deposit. The Library at present subscribes to about 250 Canadian newspapers (including over 200 ethnic newspapers), and to some foreign newspapers.[20]

Dr. Sylvestre has displayed a special interest in establishing exchanges with other countries, and the National Library now has limited exchange programs with a considerable number of partners, and major exchange programs with Great Britain, Belgium, France, and the Federal Republic of Germany. (It should also be pointed out that, during the Lamb era, the National Library negotiated exchange agreements with Japan and China, whereby Canadian government publications are sent to the Diet Library in Tokyo and to the University Library in Peking, while Japanese and Chinese official publications are sent to the University of British Columbia.)

Through membership in the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, and within the framework of the Institute's library program, the National Library has developed, since 1969, an extensive collection of Indian state and federal government publications, as well as monographs and serials.

The Library receives foreign official publications through exchanges, gifts, and purchases (largely in microform). The recent survey of collections of official publications in Canadian libraries showed that the National Library has the largest collection of foreign and international publications in Canada. The collection includes, for example, official publications from Australia, Great Britain, France, Belgium, India, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the United States. There is an emphasis in the collection on parliamentary, statistical, and educational materials.[21] The Library receives the publications of a number of international organizations, such as the United Nations, UNESCO, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Labor Organization, the Council of Europe, the European Communities, and the World Intellectual Property Organization. A collection of League of Nations publications, which is almost complete, is also held by the Library.

The Library's holdings of Canadian official publications, federal and provincial, are the largest in the country; the post-1950 holdings are virtually complete, and the Library is constantly augmenting and trying to complete its pre-1950 holdings. Included in the collection are many government publications in microform.

During the period from 1968 to 1978, the National Library has developed a variety of special collections in fields such as the history of the book and printing, Dutch studies, the family in society (a collection funded by the Vanier Institute on the Family), the performing arts, and philately (financed by contributions from the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and other donations).

Many gifts from foreign governments have enriched the Library's collections. The Library has received, for example, gifts of books from the governments of Italy, Cuba, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, the Soviet Union, and Great Britain. In return, the Library has donated collections of Canadian books to other countries.

Other noteworthy acquisitions include the previously mentioned Jacob M. Lowy Collection of Hebraic and Judaic rare books; a gift, presented in 1970 by the Lithuanian Canadian community, of over 1,000 volumes in the field of Lithuanian art, history, and literature; some 1,000 pre-1950 Canadian publications from the library of the Olivier family of Joliette, Quebec; a collection of Ukrainian books; a collection of over 2,500 books and pamphlets dealing with the Communist and left-wing movements, primarily those of the United States; and the Georges-A. Daviault collection of Canadiana,

[20] The newspaper collection contains about 3,500 Canadian newspapers and 800 foreign newspapers, though only sample issues are held for many titles. The collection includes some 40,000 reels of microfilm.

[21] An agreement between the National Library and the Library of Parliament ensures that their collections of foreign statutes and parliamentary papers complement each other.

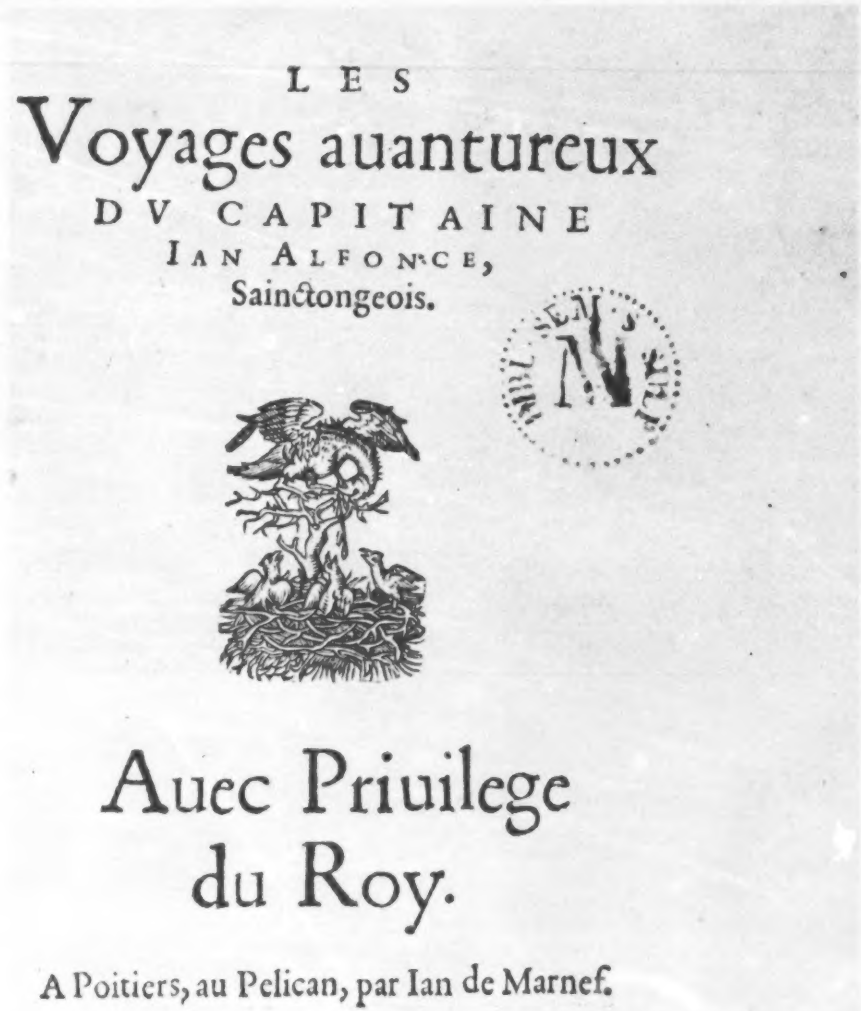
purchased in 1972, consisting of some 4,000 books, pamphlets, and serials, many of which are rare.

The National Library has made important acquisitions during recent years. Concurrently, it has been trying to define and rationalize its acquisition policy, and collecting guidelines have been drawn up.

The goal of the Library has always been to build a comprehensive collection of Canadiana and to acquire, selectively, non-Canadian materials in the social sciences and the humanities. Emphasis is placed on the acquisition of materials in the English language and in the French language, though some publications in other West European languages are also collected. On a representative basis, materials from Great Britain and France are collected fairly intensively; on a more selective basis, research and informational materials are acquired from a number of other countries. Furthermore, the National Library continues to develop collections in areas and subjects not well covered in Canadian libraries.

The Collections Development Branch was established in 1972, under the direction of André Preibish.[22] The Branch coordinates National Library acquisitions, and aims to coordinate resources development throughout Canada. Among the functions of the Branch are the selection of materials for the National Library; the rationalization of collections development

[22] André Preibish had been Collections Librarian at La Trobe University Library, Melbourne, Australia, and, before he came to the National Library, directed the Area Studies Department of the Syracuse University Libraries, Syracuse, N.Y.



LES
Voyages auantureux
DV CAPITAINE
IAN ALFONCE,
Sainctongeois.

BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE

Auec Priuilege
du Roy.

A Poitiers, au Pelican, par Ian de Marnef.

Title page of Les voyages avantureux du capitaine Ian Alfonce, Sainctongeois, *by Jean Fonteneau, known as Jean Alfonse. The National Library has one of the few surviving copies of this book, and the only one in Canada.*

Mr. Buddhi Klok, Coordinator, Montreal City Library, looks at a display publicizing the new foreign-language books, available to readers in the Montreal area, which were received from the Multilingual Biblioservice.

at the Library and ongoing analyses of the collections of the Library; the distribution of duplicate materials; and the gathering of information on the resources of other Canadian libraries.

The Office of Library Resources, which was formed in 1968, later became the Resources Survey Division of the Collections Development Branch. It surveyed research collections in thirty-six Canadian university libraries; the results were published in six volumes under the title *Research Collections in Canadian Libraries (I, Universities).* Special studies have also been published on theatre resources in Canadian collections (prepared by Heather McCallum); federal government libraries; official publications in Canada; law library resources in Canada; and Slavic and East European resources in Canadian academic and research libraries (prepared by Dr. Bohdan Budurowycz). The Resources Survey Division has recently conducted a survey of fine arts resources in Canadian libraries and related institutions, and a survey of music library resources in Canada.

The principal purpose of such studies has been to gather information that will be useful in attempts to coordinate acquisition activities of Canadian libraries and to prevent unnecessary duplication of materials. Dr. Sylvestre has pointed out that Canada is a book-poor country and that its libraries should coordinate and pool their resources. Prices and costs have continued to rise in recent years, but library budgets have not kept pace; for these reasons libraries should seek to coordinate collections development.

Public Relations, Publications, and Exhibitions

In 1972, the National Library established a Public Relations Office to arrange displays and cultural events, and to provide editorial and publicity services.[23] The small size of the staff has limited the public relations program, which should be expanded as additional resources become available.

The *National Library News*, started in 1969,[24] has been one means of publicizing developments at the Library. It is published bimonthly by the Public Relations Office, and is sent to thousands of Canadian and foreign subscribers, as is *Canadiana*.

An illustrated brochure describing the facilities, services, and collections of the National Library was published in 1970; a second edition was issued by the Public Relations Office in 1974.

Other publications of the Library have already been mentioned, such as reports of library surveys and of National Library task groups, various bibliographies and union lists, *Canadiana*, *Canadian Theses*, the *Annual Report of the National Librarian*, the *Directory of Library Associations in Canada*, and the *Canadian Library Directory*. In addition, the Library has issued publications dealing with the Canadian MARC formats, plus a number of other publications concerning automation, collections, and collections development.

The Reference Collection Development Specialist, Dorothy Ryder, compiled *Canadian Reference Sources*, which was published in 1973 by the Canadian Library Association; a supplement was published in 1975, and other annual supplements, also prepared by Miss Ryder, have been published in the *Canadian Library Journal*.

In 1977, the National Library published an illustrated booklet entitled *John Hutton's Glass Engravings*, prepared by Jean Higginson. Glass panels engraved by John Hutton, a New Zealand-born artist now living in Great Britain, decorate parts of the National Library and Archives building and are one of the most attractive and striking features of the building.

An important project sponsored by the National Library, with the aid of a grant

The National Library receives many distinguished visitors. This photograph was taken at the time of the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, October 16, 1977. Left to right: His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Her Majesty, the Hon. Hugh Faulkner, and Mrs. Faulkner.

[23] The following year, the National Film Board produced a 14-minute color film on and for the National Library, entitled *At Long Last*, which describes the building and services of the Library.

[24] An earlier, short-lived *Bulletin* was issued by the National Library from 1958 to 1960.

Dr. Sylvestre presenting a specially bound copy of the Healey Willan Catalogue *to His Excellency Governor-General Roland Michener at the opening of the Healey Willan exhibition, May 8, 1972. Mrs. Michener is at the right.*

Dr. Guy Sylvestre, National Librarian, and Dr. Daniel Boorstin, Librarian of Congress, at the opening of the exhibition "Sharing a Continent: Canada and the U.S.A., 1776–1976."

from the Devonian Group of Charitable Foundations, is the Peel Bibliography on Microfiche, which makes available in microform the works listed in Bruce Peel's *Bibliography of the Prairie Provinces* (2d ed., 1973). In this way, subscribers are receiving, at cost, microcopies of many rare and valuable early Canadian works.

In 1975, the Library published *Roll Back the Years*, a history of Canadian recorded sound to 1930, which was written by Edward Moogk, the Head of the Recorded Sound Collection. It was the first history of its kind to be published. To mark its publication, the Library held a large exhibition dealing with the history of recorded sound in Canada.

This was but one of the many exhibitions organized by the National Library between 1968 and 1978 for the purpose of promoting culture and of making the National Library better known to the public, and much work has gone into the production of exhibitions and exhibition catalogues. Exhibitions prepared by the National Library have covered a wide variety of topics: Canadian regional writers; the performing arts in Canada; Canadian cookbooks; Canadian authors in translation; Stephen Leacock; Manitoba authors; Canadian libraries; rare books held by the National Library; Arthur S. Bourinot; Charles Gill and Albert Laberge; the first Canadian library (that of the Collège des Jésuites in Quebec); Healey Willan; philately; Canadian books for children; the literature of the Americas; Indian and Inuit authors; Olivar Asselin; illustrated works on botany; Nicholas Copernicus; Canadian women (to honor International Women's Year); the 100th

anniversary of the Library of Parliament; the centennial of the Supreme Court of Canada; sports in art and literature (to mark the XXI Olympiad, held in Montreal in 1976); Canadian-American relations, 1776-1976 (in honor of the bicentennial of the U.S.A.); Canadian writings in book and nonbook form; Percy Scholes; François-Xavier Garneau; and the literature of the Atlantic Provinces.

A number of attractive exhibition catalogues have been published in connection with exhibitions organized by the Library, and scholarly, substantial publications have resulted from the preparation of exhibitions.

A large exhibition dealing with the history and accomplishments of the National Library is to be held in 1978. The preparation of this book on the National Library has gone hand in hand with the preparation of the exhibition.

A few of the major exhibitions organized by the National Library — notably those on Manitoba authors, Canadian children's books, and Olivar Asselin — have also been displayed at other libraries. The National Library has prepared special displays, publicizing its collections and services, for conferences and book fairs. In 1977, the Music Division presented a display entitled "The 100th Anniversary of Recorded Sound" at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, where it was seen by more than 1,000,000 visitors.

Various embassies have presented exhibits of foreign publications at the National Library. The Library has also been the site of a number of other cultural

Mrs. Konstantinka Kalajdzieva, Director of the Cyril and Methodius National Library, Sofia, Bulgaria, visits the National Library in November 1976. Left to right: Mrs. Kalajdzieva, Dr. Guy Sylvestre, and Miss Hope Clement.

Dr. Guy Sylvestre and Dr. Harry Hookway, Executive Director, British Library, London, England, at the time of one of Dr. Hookway's visits to the National Library, June 18, 1974.

events, sponsored by the Library and by other bodies: celebrations marking the 500th anniversary of the birth of Copernicus; events publicizing the "Save Venice" campaign; a tribute to Professor Barker Fairley on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday; and numerous colloquia organized by the Royal Society of Canada (the offices of which are housed in the National Library) and attended by many scholars from Canada and abroad. The National Library hopes to develop a stronger cultural program, to consist of events such as lectures and concerts.

Professor Barker Fairley standing beside a bronze bust of himself, created by Mrs. Almuth Lütkenhaus and donated by her to the National Library. This photograph was taken during a ceremony to honor Professor Fairley on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday, and it shows Professor Fairley, Mrs. Lütkenhaus, and His Excellency Count Max Podewils, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany.

International Cooperation

Mention has already been made of various examples of international cooperation, such as exchange agreements with foreign countries; the exchange of MARC tapes with other national libraries; participation by the National Library in UNESCO programs; the contribution of the Library to publications such as the *Index Translationum*, *New Serial Titles*, and the *Revista de Historia de América*; and the national role the Library has played in the work of the CONSER project and the International Serials Data System.

Cooperation at the international level is essential for a country so heavily dependent on publications and information from other countries. In recent years, the National Library has taken an active part in the work of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, the International Organization for Standardization (in particular, its Technical Committee 46 on Documentation), and the International Federation for Documentation. Dr. Sylvestre was instrumental in arranging annual meetings of directors of national libraries; he headed the Canadian delegation to UNESCO's UNISIST (1970) and NATIS (1974) conferences and was one of the principal promoters of UNESCO's General Information Programme; and, in 1977, he was elected chairman of the National Libraries Section of the General Research Libraries Division of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. Periodic meetings of senior staff members of the National Library and the Library of Congress have been held, and these two national libraries have worked closely together. For example, the two libraries have an agreement on the cooperative creation and use of subject headings, on name authorities for Canadian corporate bodies, and on the interpretation of the Dewey Decimal Classification. Staff members of the National Library, together with representatives of other national libraries and of national library associations, took part in the development and the revision of the *Anglo-American*

Cataloging Rules. The National Library shares with the Library of Congress, the British Library, and the National Library of Australia an agreement for common policies in the implementation of the second edition of the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*. Finally, members of the Music Division participate in international projects through their membership in the International Association of Music Libraries. For instance, they collect information on pre-1800 music materials in Canadian libraries and report it to the Répertoire international des sources musicales (RISM); similarly, information gathered on visual representations of music located in Canada is sent to the Répertoire international d'iconographie musicale (RIdIM).

The National Library has been much concerned with Universal Bibliographic Control. There is a need to achieve compatibility among national bibliographies, uniform cataloguing rules, and a standardized communication format for information exchanged among countries — the ultimate goal being a worldwide information network. The National Library has participated in the building of such a network and in the development of an international format for the exchange of bibliographic information. Jean Lunn and Edwin Buchinski have made important contributions in that regard.

Staff

In 1977, Hope Clement became Associate National Librarian. Miss Clement joined the staff of the National Library while it was still located in the Public Archives building on Sussex Drive. Among the positions she has held at the Library are those of Chief of the National Bibliography Division and Director of the Research and Planning Branch, and she has played a significant role in the development of systems and networks. In 1973, Flora Patterson succeeded Martha Shepard as Director of the Reference (now Public Services) Branch. Miss Patterson has served the National Library since 1957 and was for many years Chief of its Serials Division. In 1975, Cynthia Durance became Director of the Cataloguing Branch, succeeding Jean Lunn. Ms Durance had been Assistant Librarian, Planning, University of Waterloo Library.

Hope E.A. Clement
Photo by John Evans

She served as chairman of the Canadian Union Catalogue Task Group's Subcommittee on Union Lists of Serials.

In January 1953, there were only 14 positions in the National Library; by January 1978, the number had risen, doubling since 1968, to more than 500. As the National Library has grown larger, more complex, and more diffuse, it has also become more structured and impersonal. The closeness that existed among the staff when their numbers were smaller and all the employees knew one another ceased to exist after the move to the new building on Wellington Street. This is regrettable, but unavoidable.

Six employees (including the author of this book) who worked for the Canadian Bibliographic Centre before it became the National Library, and four employees who joined the Library after it had been established and was located in the Public Archives building on Sussex Drive, are still on the staff of the Library in 1978. About eighty staff members who worked for the National Library during the Tunney's Pasture period are still with the Library at the time this book is being written.

As a result of the long-delayed construction of the National Library and Archives building and the outside demands and pressures on the National Library, explosive growth and development have taken place at the Library during the past decade. Inevitably, the many changes have sometimes had an unsettling effect on the staff, since these changes entailed reorganization, the introduction of new programs and procedures, much moving about of employees and services, uncertainty

about the future, and a general disturbance of the status quo. Tribute should be paid to the legion of hard-working and devoted employees who, during a difficult period of change and transformation, continued to provide services to the public, maintain catalogues and collections, and adjust to the continually changing conditions.

Finally, just as Canada has been enriched by its many immigrants, so the Library has been strengthened by having on its staff employees of many racial and linguistic backgrounds.

The End of an Active Decade

Two of the problems facing the author of this book were the large amount of information that had to be gathered, studied, and condensed, and the danger of being eulogistic and painting too rosy a picture of the accomplishments of the National Library.

So much activity and progress took place during the period from 1968 to 1978 that it is difficult to summarize and assess the changes and achievements. The National Library created task groups; it held conferences, and published a number of important reports, studies, and reference works; it organized many interesting exhibitions; it developed cataloguing and Canadian MARC standards; it acquired a variety of collections and entered into many exchange agreements; it actively cooperated with other countries and with international organizations; it established a number of new services and programs; it continued to publish the national bibliography, which was gradually expanded and automated; and it maintained its union catalogues and location/interlibrary loan, reference, and bibliographic services.

Growth was spectacular during the decade from 1968 to 1978. The size of the staff more than doubled. There were ten divisions and two branches when Dr. Lamb retired; ten years later, there were thirty divisions and offices, and four branches. Even the length of the annual reports is, to some extent, a measure of the expansion of the Library: Dr. Lamb's annual report for the fiscal year 1966–67 contained 19 pages, and that of Dr. Sylvestre for 1974–75, 98 pages.

But what of the problems, setbacks, and failures during this decade? Many seeds were planted between 1968 and 1978, but the growth of some of the new services, such as the service for the handicapped, has been disappointingly slow. It can be said that the National Library tried to achieve too much. By 1978, the Library's resources were spread too thin and many of its services understaffed. It can also be said that much more would have been accomplished if the Library had been given the financial support to do the job. Unfortunately, the economic malaise in Canada has caused the federal government to impose severe restraints on departmental growth and spending. As a result of financial restraints, useful programs have had to be curtailed or postponed (for example, more microfilming of Canadian periodicals might be undertaken and more traveling exhibits might be sent to other libraries were sufficient funds and staff available), the Library lacks the resources to provide adequate support to services created at the request of the Canadian library and research communities, and access to the Library's collections leaves much to be desired, since large parts of the collections are uncatalogued; many publications held by the Library are virtually unusable because they are not catalogued. Initially, Canada lacked a national library; after the Library was founded, it lacked a building for many years; now the Library lacks the resources to do its job properly.

One of the present problems is that of space. After eleven years at Tunney's Pasture, the National Library was desperately short of space, and after eleven years in its new building, the Library is again in the same predicament. The space problem has become so critical that whole services and branches have had to be transplanted to other buildings.

Although the National Library and the Public Archives have had separate directors since the retirement of Dr. Lamb, the two departments have continued to share the same building. This arrangement has had its advantages and disadvantages. On the one hand, it has been advantageous for many researchers to be able to use the complementary services of the two national institutions, each devoted to the preservation of the Canadian heritage, and each located in the same building. And the proximity of the two departments has enabled them to share technical and administrative services. On the other hand, as both departments have expanded and the staff of the National Library has grown to equal that of the Public Archives (eighty years

The West Memorial building, which houses some of the staff and services of the National Library.

the senior of the National Library),[25] the space problem has become more and more acute and the need for a separate building to house the Public Archives is increasingly urgent.

Concerning the successes and failures of the National Library during the period from 1968 to 1978, it is interesting, in retrospect, to examine the recommendations addressed in 1969 by the National Librarian to the Senate Special Committee on Science Policy.

The brief recommended extending the subject treatment in *Canadiana*, adding international book numbers, and computerizing the publication of the text; these recommendations have been largely implemented.

The publication, however, of the bibliography of Canadiana, 1867–1900, another of the recommendations contained in the brief, has been delayed.

The recommendations concerning *Canadian Theses* have yet to be fully implemented, and the publication of the annual catalogue has fallen several years behind schedule.

Computerization of the Union Catalogue is recommended in the brief; much planning has been done in this regard, and automation of the Union Catalogue will soon begin.

The brief recommended that a full and computerized union list of periodicals in the social sciences and humanities be published; this has not yet been accomplished. The Library, however, did succeed in publishing a first edition, in 1977, of the *Union List of Canadian Newspapers Held by Canadian Libraries*, though the first edition was not computer-produced as was recommended in the brief.

The brief proposed that the Library carry out a program for the preservation of brittle books, and a modest program has been started.

Success has been achieved in the implementation of recommendations on exchanges with other countries; the strengthening of the book budget of the National Library (although the budget is still far from adequate); the development of a national book exchange service; the surveys of research collections; the creation of an Office of Library Systems; and the setting up of a mechanism for the coordination of federal government libraries.

[25] If one excludes the joint Administration and Technical Services Branch, which serves both departments, the staff of the National Library now exceeds that of the Public Archives.

The National Librarian, in his brief to the Senate Special Committee on Science Policy, also recommended that the government make plans, without delay, for the erection of a separate building to house the Public Archives. As long ago as 1969, Dr. Sylvestre realized that the National Library and the Public Archives would quickly outgrow the building they share. It is unfortunate that the construction of a separate building for the Public Archives lies far in the future, since the erection of such a building would solve the space problems for both the Library and the Archives.

It is also interesting to examine a brief prepared in 1968 by the two national library associations, the Canadian Library Association and the Association canadienne des bibliothécaires de langue française. This brief, which deals with the role of the National Library, recommended, for example, that the National Library establish close liaison with other national libraries, especially the Library of Congress, and with international organizations; that it participate in national and regional conferences; that it act as a clearinghouse for information on developments in library automation, give leadership in the field of automation, and participate in the development of a national information system; that it promote library cooperation in the Ottawa area; and that it publicize its policies and programs, perhaps by means of a news bulletin.

The National Library has certainly tried to implement the recommendations concerning automation, liaison, and cooperation, and only a few months after the brief was presented, the Library began publishing the *National Library News*. The Library has actively participated in conferences and committees, national and international; and numerous meetings with Canadian and foreign librarians have been arranged by the National Librarian — for instance, with Canadian parliamentary, legislative, and law librarians, provincial library directors, and senior librarians from the Library of Congress — to foster dialogue and liaison.

A joint brief presented to the federal government in 1946 by the Canadian Library Association and a number of

The directors of provincial library services or their delegates at a meeting held at the National Library, February 22, 1974. From left to right: Mrs. Irena Bell (NL); Mr. Peter Hanion (Manitoba); Mrs. Madeleine Leroux (Québec); Mr. Joe Forsyth (Alberta); Mr. William A. Roedde (Ontario); Mr. Peter Matte (Québec); Mr. Pearce J. Penny (Newfoundland); Mr. Jim Kelly (NL); Mrs. Marie F. Zielinska (NL); Dr. Guy Sylvestre (NL); Mr. James F. MacEacheron (New Brunswick); Mr. Robert W. Ivanochko (Saskatchewan); Mrs. Carin Somers (Nova Scotia); Mr. L. MacRae (NL); Mrs. Truus Plaskacz (NL).

learned societies stated that "A national library is ... a *centre for services* to other libraries, research workers, and individuals ... the channel for cooperation with foreign libraries as well as the means through which all the libraries of the country cooperate, in short, the *nerve centre of the whole network of libraries in the country.*"[26] And Guy Sylvestre, speaking in 1968 at the annual conference of the Association canadienne des bibliothécaires de langue française, said: "In this world where everything is becoming more and more solidary and interdependent, we must not work in isolation, but must find together the solutions to our common problems. I like to believe that the National Library of Canada is the centre of the library network covering our country and that it is up to that library, more than to any other library, to ensure the best possible operation of this network by facilitating the coordination not only of research collections but also of the services that we each provide to our respective clients."[27]

The ideal library network and the close cooperation among Canadian libraries that have been Guy Sylvestre's dream do not yet fully exist. Important steps, however, have been taken, and substantial progress has been realized: a national bibliographic data base is taking shape; standards have been established; an automated library-management system is being developed; and a Networks Office has been created to promote and assist in the development of plans for cooperative library networks. (This Office also acts as a clearinghouse in Canada for information on bibliographic centres and on computerized library-network developments.)

Guy Sylvestre has displayed wide-ranging interests — in music, rare books, public relations, automation, exchanges, international cooperation — and a tough determination in accomplishing his objectives. From the beginning, he had a master plan, and little by little, he has tried to put all the pieces in place, though financial limitations have made it impossible for him to fulfill all his goals. History will probably judge his objectives as reasonable and the overall accomplishments of the National Library during the decade 1968-78 as impressive. The Library has had problems, and it has been criticized for its shortcomings; nevertheless, if one evaluates the balance sheet for 1968-78, the achievements are remarkable.

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[26] "A National Library for Canada." *Ontario Library Review*, v. 31, February 1947, p. 3.

[27] Guy Sylvestre, "The National Library of Canada," *Canadian Library Journal*, v. 26, January-February 1969, p. 30.

CANADA
NATIONAL LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE

Chapter 8

Conclusion

Many notable changes and events have taken place in the world since 1953, the year in which the National Library was founded: the exploration of outer space; the Vietnam war; the Watergate scandal; the disappearance of the British, French, and Portuguese empires; the death of many famous figures, such as Lester Pearson, Winston Churchill, Mao Tse-Tung, and Albert Einstein; the struggle for the survival of Israel; the oil crisis; the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway and of the Trans-Canada Highway; the Quiet Revolution in Quebec and the growing separatist movement there; the black, the feminist, and the ecumenical movements; and the changes in the Catholic Church.

The world changed enormously between 1953 and 1978, and so did the National Library.

During the Tunney's Pasture era, a man with a foreign accent telephoned the National Library and asked to speak to a certain librarian, who was serving on a selection board that day. "She's not here," was the reply. "She's sitting on a board and will be tied up all day." The sadomasochistic sound of that reply appeared to puzzle the inquirer. The image of bondage and immobility that was conjured up on the telephone is somewhat reminiscent of the constricted condition of the National Library in the pre-1967 period. For years, because of space and staff limitations, it remained constrained and held back. Nonetheless, a number of services were started during those early years, collections gradually grew, and a building to house the Library was finally erected.

Just as the late 1960s and early 1970s were years of great growth for Canada, so too were they years of remarkable growth for the National Library. To its existing services were added a number of special services; new collections were formed; the Library entered into a host of exchange agreements; it carried out important pioneering work in the field of cataloguing and library-automation standards; and manual operations began to be replaced by automated procedures, though the introduction of automation turned out to be a costly and time-consuming undertaking.

To what extent, after twenty-five years, is the Library now performing the functions of a national library? In his annual report for the fiscal year 1973–74, Dr. Sylvestre listed the normal functions of a national library as follows: 1) to gather the literature of the nation; 2) to publish the national bibliography; 3) to promote and coordinate the development of national bibliographic and information services and to foster cooperation between such services and international agencies and organizations; 4) to publish retrospective bibliographies, especially of the literature of the nation; 5) to collect foreign literature and coordinate the collecting of it within the nation; 6) to maintain a national union catalogue; 7) to prepare exhibitions; 8) to develop a collection of manuscripts; 9) to provide a centralized international exchange

service; 10) to distribute duplicate publications; 11) to develop library services for the handicapped; 12) to initiate and carry out research on library techniques; 13) to train librarians; and 14) to provide assistance in library techniques to other libraries in the country.

Enough has already been said about the implementation of functions 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11. Let us consider to what extent the Library has been performing the other functions mentioned above.

The National Library has published some retrospective bibliographies, but it could and should do more in this regard; and it is disappointing that the bibliography of Canadiana, 1867-1900, has not yet been published.

The Library collects foreign literature (although many acquisitions have remained uncatalogued, since the cataloguing staff has never been large enough to cope with the inflow of acquisitions), and it has been trying to rationalize its acquisition policy. It has also been attempting to promote a coordinated collections development program among Canadian libraries.

Important collections of music manuscripts have been acquired, but less impressive progress has been made in collecting literary manuscripts (though the Library can boast of some noteworthy acquisitions). Furthermore, the manuscript acquisition policies of the National Library and the Public Archives should be coordinated.

The National Library has trained Canadian librarians in the use of SDI techniques and the Canadian MARC formats. And, on occasion, it has provided training to librarians from other countries.[28]

During the period from 1968 to 1978, the Library served as a laboratory, where new systems and techniques were tried out and developed and where much experimentation took place. The Library will doubtless continue to encourage and to carry out research.

In the decade between 1968 and 1978, Canada was adversely affected by inflation, a weakening economy, and the growing separatist movement in Quebec. The world of 1978 has turned out to be a much more unstable one than that of 1968, and the state of the National Library is less buoyant at the end of the decade. "Great Expectations" has been followed by "Hard Times." In the mid-1970s, the federal government attempted to reduce inflation and the growth of its own services by imposing tight restraints on growth. The policy became one of retrenchment rather than one of expansion.

Because of the rapid changes that have taken place at the Library, the many demands being made on it, the financial strait jacket in which it finds itself, and the need to use resources as wisely and carefully as possible, it seemed judicious for the Library to take a fresh look at its objectives and services. Consequently, the Planning Office (which was formed in 1976) undertook a lengthy study with a view to making recommendations on the future role, programs, and organization of the Library. The staff of the Library participated in the study, and individuals and organizations outside the Library were invited to submit their views and suggestions.

No doubt this exercise in self-analysis will be salutary and will help the Library define more clearly its role and identity. It would be hazardous, though, to try to predict the outcome of the review that went on during 1976 and 1977, and it is not possible to foretell with any degree of accuracy what the future holds. Some of the developments that have taken place at the National Library in recent years, such as the advent of automation, would have been unimaginable to the employees of 1953; it is equally impossible for employees today to prophesy what is to come. One can predict, however, that the future will be full of change, as the past has been, and that other National Librarians will lead the Library along new and different paths. It is also safe to predict that the National Library will continue to promote cooperation and standardization and will do its best to coordinate and complement library services in Canada.

Institutions, like individuals, seldom live up to expectations. It is impossible to please and satisfy everyone: some say the National Library has tried to do too much, whereas others complain that it should be doing more and are frustrated because of promises not yet carried out. Inevitably, too, there is a gap between what the Library should or would like to do and what it is able to do.

[28] Moreover, the National Library has served as a training ground for many Canadian librarians who, after having worked at the Library, have taken positions elsewhere; National Library alumni are to be found in libraries across the country.

The record of the National Library is imperfect. Nonetheless, one can take pride in the progress that has been made. The Library has come a long way and has expanded greatly since 1953; it is like a very small college that has grown into a sizable university. The Library is now the main centre in Canada for bibliographic information, it is of great benefit to researchers and to the cultural and educational life of the country, and plays an important bridge-building role in the library world. Furthermore, the National Library is a unifying force in that it helps bind together the libraries of the nation, serves all parts of Canada, and fosters international cooperation.

And the National Library is still very young, still growing, still searching — like Canada — for its identity. It has existed for a mere generation, and its history is relatively brief compared with that of other national libraries, some of which were founded centuries ago.

Although the National Library is still underdeveloped and understaffed, and suffers from a lack of space, one can be proud of its accomplishments, certain of its potential, and confident that it will rise to higher levels of service and excellence.

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